

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Sir, tractors were sent to U. P. So, I ask the number of tractors sent to U. P. and the extent of land broken.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Thirty thousand acres of *tarai* land which was over-grown with forests were reclaimed. There are other areas also.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, whether an estimate of requirements of tractor has been made for South India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have only one particular suggestion under consideration.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know the reason why this work has not been entrusted to the State Government but undertaken by the C.T.O.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Evidently because the State Government desired us to intervene.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: How much expenditure will be involved in this?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have not worked that out.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know whether the different States have been requested to send their estimates of tractor requirements?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know how much of the areas reclaimed by the tractors were under cultivation already before the tractor operations?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, some areas in Bhopal and some in Madhya Pradesh were already being cultivated. But they were very much *kans* infested and therefore the tractor operation was considered necessary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members put down questions but when they are called they are not here. They may as well give me notice and I need not take the trouble of calling them.

BEKI AND BHULKADOBRA BRIDGES

*818. **Shri Amjad Ali:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many times the Beki and Bhulkadoba bridges on the Assam Railway have so far breached?

(b) What was the cost incurred on the repairs of each of them on each occasion?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The present Beki bridge is the eighth

bridge, and the present Bhulkadoba bridge is the fourth bridge constructed during the past 45 years.

(b) The costs of the repairs on each occasion are not readily available but in the case of the Beki bridge the cost of repairs of the seventh bridge was Rs. 12,70,000 and the eighth bridge cost Rs. 52 lakhs. In the case of the Bhulkadoba bridge, temporary restoration in 1942 was done at a cost of Rs. 2,54,000 and the bridge was finally rebuilt in 1942-43 at a cost of Rs. 12,50,000.

Shri Amjad Ali: Is it correct that the Beki bridge was breached 7 times before and this is the 8th time?

Shri Alagesan: It breached several times because the size of the rivers changed.

Shri Amjad Ali: It breached seven times and not several times.

Shri Alagesan: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Several times or seven times, it is all the same.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : सरकार का इस प्रकार से पुल के टूटने से अभी तक कितना नुकसान हुआ ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know the loss to Government on account of the breaches from time to time.

Shri Alagesan: I have given the cost of the two bridges, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know what is the loss to the Government on account of the bridges having been washed away.

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the information, Sir.

Shri Amjad Ali: What were the principal causes for the breach of the bridge so often?

Shri Alagesan: There are two or three streams emerging from one river which starts in the Bhutan and they vary in their sizes because of the huge floods and the breaches are caused.

Shri Amjad Ali: Which are those erratic rivers which are responsible for the breaches of these bridges very often?

Shri Alagesan: Beki and Bhulkadoba rivers.