

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I did not say that. I merely mentioned the expenditure that the Central Government is likely to incur on the development of forests.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: I am sorry.

Shri Thanu Pillai: Is the Government giving any advice to the State Government of Madras to stop indiscriminate cutting of forests? Have they complied with it?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think a Government like that of Madras needs any advice from the Centre on an obvious matter like this.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are there any definite schemes of afforestation and may I know the proportion which they bear to the destruction of forests?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not without notice reply to that question.

Shri Kelappan: Have Government any idea of the area of private-owned forests?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the figure.

Shri Nanadas: May I know what instructions have been given to the States which are recklessly violating the forest laws?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us not cast aspersions on States. States are not responsible for recklessly felling forests.

Shri Ganpati Ram: May I know, Sir, how many acres of land were afforested so far to check soil erosion and increasing area of deserts?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice.

OVER-BRIDGE AT JULLUNDUR

*2151. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from the residents, traders and business community of Jullundur, urging the requirement of an over-bridge capable of bearing the weight of heavy transport;

(b) whether Government are aware that in view of the newly-opened direct road route connecting Jullundur and Pathankot, a considerable military traffic too is likely to be diverted to this route; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) No complaint of the inadequacy of the present level crossings to deal with the road traffic of the newly opened direct road route connecting Jullundur and Pathankot have so far been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that except for two level crossings, there is no other crossing from one side of this most heavily populated city to the other?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I cannot go into details, but I am prepared to get the matter examined again, provided the Municipality or the State Government is willing to offer its contribution towards the completion of that over-bridge.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Is it a fact that the hon. Minister himself has examined the site and he himself felt the need for a crossing there?

Shri L. B. Shastri: That is correct, but I said in the construction of that over-bridge the State Government has also to give their own contribution. Then only can the Railway Board take up the work.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Has there been any correspondence between the Central Government and the State Government in this matter.

Shri L. B. Shastri: It is for the State Government to write to us.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Is it a fact that the State Government has already drawn the attention of the Central Government to this matter?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I have not received any communication.

RAILWAY LINES IN ETAH DISTRICT

*2152. **Shri Badshah Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the results of his recent visit to Etah District in connection with inter-linking of the District and Tehsil Headquarters by railway lines with a neighbouring Railway junction?