

Shri Vittal Rao: What is the estimated cost of installing the lock and block system throughout the railways?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, I cannot give the figure offhand. It will run into crores.

Shri Muniswamy: In answer to part (a) of the question the hon. Minister has said 'No'. May I know whether there was any occasion during the past year when such collisions took place?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir, unfortunately there have been one or two collisions which drew the attention of the public. But taking the previous period into consideration, the number of collisions has been less. That is why the answer has been 'No' to part (a).

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Is it a fact that these accidents are caused by the irregularity of timing of the trains?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir.

Shri Achuthan: May I know whether there is paucity of funds or paucity of materials to replace the whole Railways with the lock and block system?

Shri Alagesan: I said this is being done on a programmed basis within the limits of funds and materials available.

बेतवा तथा नर्मदा नदियों पर पुल

*१२७३: श्री चाण्डक : क्या यातायात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि झांसी और ललितपुर के बीच बेतवा नदी पर तथा सागर और नरसिंगपुर के बीच नर्मदा नदी पर पक्के पुल न होने के कारण यात्रियों को बहुत असुविधा होती है ?

(ख) क्या इन पुलों को बनाने की सरकार ने कोई योजना बनाई है ?

(ग) यदि 'हां' तो इन का काम कब से प्रारम्भ किया जायेगा ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The construction of bridges over the Betwa river at Jhararghat on Jhansi-Lalitpur Section of National Highway No. 26, and over the Narmada river at Barman on Sagar-Narsinghpur Section of National Highway No. 26 is provided for in the current five-year programme for the development of National Highways.

(c) It is hoped to start the construction of these bridges in about a year's time.

RAILWAY STATION AT MEHSANA

*1274. **Shri S. G. Parikh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a new Railway Station is being constructed at Mehsana?

(b) What amount has been spent so far and what further amount will be necessary to complete the station?

(c) What is the estimated cost?

(d) When was the work started and when is it likely to be completed?

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

(b) The amount so far spent is Rs. 2,78,750/- and the additional funds necessary to complete the Station would amount to Rs. 4,55,700/-.

(c) Rs. 7,34,500/-.

(d) The work was started in the year 1951-52 and the major portion thereof should be completed by the end of this year.

Shri S. G. Parikh: May I know whether diamond crossing has been installed there or not and, if so, at what cost?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There are diamond crossings and they are operated.

Shri S. G. Parikh: May I know whether it is put to use or not?