

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?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: Yes, it is being put to use whenever it is necessary.

Shri Dabhi: What passenger amenities, including installation of water coolers, construction of third class waiting rooms etc., will be provided at this station?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: Third class waiting halls have already been constructed and waiting halls for upper classes are being constructed, and I hope they will be all constructed during the year.

Shri Dabhi: Water facilities?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: Water facilities too.

ROAD BRIDGE NEAR KURNOOL

*1275. **Shri Gadilingana Gowd:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether there was a proposal to construct a road bridge on Tungabhadra River near Kurnool?

(b) If so, at what stage does the matter stand?

(c) Have Government considered the necessity of construction of a road bridge in view of the location of Capital of the Andhra State at Kurnool?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). Originally, the Anantapur-Yadcherla section of National Highway No. 7 (Benaras-Cape Comorin Road) was aligned *via* Kurnool and it was proposed to construct a bridge on the National Highway over the Tungabhadra river near Kurnool. Subsequently it was tentatively decided to take the National Highway through Madhavaram and Raichur because a substantial length of the road *via* Kurnool would be submerged on the construction of the proposed Krishna-Pennar Project. The question of construction of a bridge over the Tungabhadra river near Kurnool from National Highway Funds will arise only if it is finally decided to take the National Highway *via* Kurnool. It is proposed to consult the

Government of the new Andhra State before finalising the alignment.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: May I know if the Government is aware that the Governor of Madras who inspected Kurnool on the 9th was personally convinced of the necessity of this bridge and has promised the Kurnool Municipality that he would take up the matter with the Central Minister of Railways.

Shri Alagesan: Sir, I have explained in detail in the answer which I have read out that unless it is decided to have the national highway *via* Kurnool the question of constructing a bridge near Kurnool will not arise. If that is finally decided in consultation with the new Andhra State then it will be taken up.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: Is the Government aware that the Tungabhadra river near Kurnool is a boundary between Hyderabad and Madras States and that trade and commerce between the two States will develop if the bridge is constructed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has said that only if the question about the national highway is decided this can be taken up, and they have not decided upon it yet.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: Is he aware that it is a boundary?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Everybody is aware.

Shri Muniswamy: If the question of the bridge over the Tungabhadra river is finalised, may I know what would be the total amount of expenditure which would be incurred by the Central Government for the construction of such a bridge?

Shri Alagesan: I cannot give any estimate of the cost of the bridge just now.

BETEL NUTS

*1276. **Shri Achuthan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated total quantity of betel nuts required for use in this country in the years 1951-52; and