

Shri Kamath : In view of the fact that the recent Ariyalur disaster occurred outside the old Hyderabad State, does Government propose to appoint a new committee to inspect all bridges all over the country, or is this Committee going to do that work also ?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : Chief Engineers of all the Railways have been asked to carry out very thorough investigations and make sure that all the bridges are in proper state of repairs and good condition. This Committee is confined to the work that has been entrusted to it.

Shri Kamath : In view of the fact that there are a number of foreign engineers working in the country today in various capacities, does Government propose to associate one or more of them in this work of inspection of bridges in our country ?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : I do not think it is necessary, because our own engineers are quite capable of doing this kind of work.

Shri Kamath : But it has been proved otherwise.

Dr. Jaisoorya : May I know whether Shri D'Costa is an open-line engineer or a loco engineer ?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : I am afraid I do not have that information with me just now. If the hon. Member is interested, I shall be glad to give the information to him.

Publication of Gazetteers

*716. { **Shri Dabhi :**
Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha :

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the progress that has been made in the preparation of gazetteers containing all the relevant information including details of amenities proposed to be provided at each station, during the Second Five Year Plan ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Railways have started collection of the requisite data; but in view of the volume of the factual material to be collected it will be some time before the work is completed.

Shri Dabhi : May I know whether Government have chalked out any programme for the publication of these things ?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : We have addressed a letter to all the railways and have told them what is to be done.

National Construction Corporation

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*717. { **Shri D. C. Sharma :**
Shri Ram Krishan :
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha :
Shri L. N. Mishra :
Shri Shivnanajappa :

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1636 on the 1st September, 1956 and state :

(a) whether the scheme for setting up National Construction Corporation has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : (a) and (b). The Government of India have decided to set up under the Indian Companies Act a National Construction Corporation for the execution of river valley projects in India. The nominal capital of the Corporation, which will be subscribed by the Centre and the participating States, will be of the order of Rs. 2 crores. The Corporation will, in the beginning, take up only two or three projects in order to have time to develop the organisation and extend its activities. The Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association are expected to be finalised shortly. A special officer is being appointed to settle all the preliminaries like preparation of bye-laws, selection of officers and staff, arrangements for machinery, etc. so that the Corporation can function effectively immediately after it is set up. In consultation with the States concerned it has been decided that the Corporation should as its first job undertake the construction of the Chambal Project canals.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Vellore-Conjeevaram Railway Line

*677. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 44 on the 17th February, 1956 and state :

(a) whether the traffic survey undertaken by the Southern Railway Administration for a 44-mile long meter gauge railway line between Vellore and Conjeevaram has since been concluded;

(b) if so, whether the same has been examined; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) to (c). The Traffic survey has been completed but the report is awaited from the Southern Railway Administration.