

**LOK SABHA DEBATES**  
**(Part I—Questions and Answers)**

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**LOK SABHA**

Monday, 26th March, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Khandwa-Hingoli Rail Link**

116 { Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:  
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 869, on the 6th December, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the first phase of the construction of Khandwa-Hingoli Rail Link has been completed; and

(b) if so, the total amount incurred thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The first phase of the Khandwa-Hingoli construction has been completed only partially.

(b) The total amount incurred so far is Rs. 127 lakhs for the first phase.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know when the final construction of this line will be completed?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: It depends on the availability of rolling stock that we might have to import. Subject to the availability of materials, we hope that the line would be completed in the year 1959-60.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether there is a proposal to increase the speed on the newly constructed metre gauge line?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We have to construct the line first and then consider the speed.

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Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It was said during the last session that a section of this rail link would be opened for traffic during 1957. May I know which section will be opened for traffic?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We are at present working on two sections from both ends. The first section is from Khandwa to Gudikeda; up till Piplod we have more or less completed and we hope that by next month those 18 miles nearly would be open to traffic. We have also started from Hingoli up to Kunhargaoon and that too would be open to traffic in the next two or three months.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the construction of the major bridges across the two rivers will be taken up immediately or only after the submission of the report of the experts committee which is going into the bridges?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I cannot give the exact time when that work will be taken up. The work on the whole line is going on in various stages.

**Import of Foodgrains**

\*117. Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to import more foodgrains than previously estimated to provide against eventualities in view of the experience of last year regarding droughts and floods?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Government's policy is to import enough foodgrains to meet the demands and also to build up reserves against unforeseen demands due to droughts and floods. The adequacy of the import programme is therefore under constant review. If at any time it is con-