

Bridge on Rupnarain River

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*784. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri N. M. Deb:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 336 on the 12th August, 1959 and state:

(a) whether final and fresh contract for constructing a road bridge on the Rupnarain river (National Highway No. 6) has since been given;

(b) if so, when the actual work is to commence; and

(c) whether a jetty for passenger ferry service has been constructed departmentally?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir. Tenders have been received and the work will be awarded after the tenders have been examined.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. It is being constructed, on contract.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether it is a fact that this scheme of bridging the river and connecting No. 6 highway running between Calcutta and Bombay has been taken up in the First Plan and year after year it could not be proceeded with? May I also know whether it will be completed during the Second Plan period?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is a fact that this was sanctioned as early as February 1956. Initially the design for the bridge was in pre-stressed concrete but on account of the foreign exchange difficulties, foreign exchange component could not be obtained to get the high-tensile steel required for the bridge. So, an RCC design was taken up and that took time. After that the position has eased a little and we have again reverted to pre-stressed concrete. This foreign

exchange difficulty has accounted for the delay.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether suitable power craft has already been procured so that there would be no delay when the jetty is ready for use?

Shri Raj Bahadur: A revised estimate for this also—power ferry—has been asked for. The jetty has to be constructed before the power ferry can be plied or used. It was also found difficult to construct the jetty because of the very heavy floods that came from time to time which knocked away the foundations of the wooden ramps.

Shri Subodh Hansda: In answer to para (a) of the question, the hon. Minister stated 'No'. But in answer to another question on 12th August, 1959 the hon. Minister has stated that the last date for the receipt of fresh tenders was 28th August, 1959. Am I to understand that no fresh tender was received by the Government within the due date?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The question is not quite clear. I think the date given on the previous occasion was 28th August. In fact more time was given and the last date was changed over to 14th September. Hence there is some difference between these two dates.

Ship Building

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*795. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri R. C. Majhi:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress made by the Hindustan Shipyard for building of nine ships ordered by the Eastern and Western Shipping Corporations;

(b) how many ships have been supplied to the Corporations since the order was placed; and