

अभाव में इसे स्वीकार नहीं किया गया, मुख्यतः इस कारण कि इस क्षेत्र में सड़क-परिवहन का पर्याप्त विकास हो गया है।

#### **Railway Line between Varanasi and Gorakhpur**

**123. Shri Vishram Prasad:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to connect the railway line between Varanasi and Gorakhpur via Azamgarh to reduce the distance between the two stations; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to give effect to this proposal?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):**

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Water Supply**

**124. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to tackle the problem of urban and rural water supply on an emergency footing and to give relief to the people in the States which suffer from acute water scarcity is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken in this regard?

**The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar):** (a) to (c). The problem of water supply in the country, particularly in rural areas, is engaging constant attention of the Government. The water supply schemes have been given high priority in the Third Five Year Plan and ways and means are being devised with a view to solving the problem as quickly as possible. The objective is to arrange safe drinking water supply in all rural areas within the Third Five Year Plan period, if possible.

1339 (Ai) L.S.D.—4.

#### **Collapse of Railway Bridge in Muzaffarpur Distt.**

**125. Shri Priya Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a railway bridge between Dhang and Bairagnia in Muzaffarpur district collapsed under pressure of the surging flood waters of the river Bagmati on the 30th June, 1962; and

(b) if so, the extent of damage to life and property on that account?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):**

(a) and (b). No sir. None of the Railway Bridges between Dhang and Bairagnia collapsed but due to heavy spill of Flood water of River Bagmati, the approach banks of one of the Bridges were breached. The approximate cost of repairs is Rs. 1,91,000/-.

#### **Pensions to Railway Employees**

**126. Shri Priya Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railwaymen were given option for pension scheme;

(b) if so, whether most of the railwaymen who retired after exercising this option have not yet been paid their pensions;

(c) whether forms to be filled in by widows of the persons who exercised option for pension during their lifetime have been made available; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Out of 14,560 pensionable railway employees who have retired to the end of May, 1962, pensions have been sanctioned in 13,645 cases. Out of the remaining 915 cases, 643 are less than six months old.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.