

(b) if so, whether any exploratory measures were undertaken; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to exploit such underground reserves in the Orissa coast?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c). Seismic surveys done for oil exploration on land in the Orissa coast have not shown the presence of any sizeable structure suitable for exploratory drilling. After conducting detailed seismic surveys in the offshore area, adjoining the Orissa-West Bengal coasts, 2 exploratory wells have been drilled in which no hydro-carbons in commercial quantities were found. Further seismic surveys have been proposed for the Mahanadi offshore basin.

Construction of Overbridges near Balasore and Cuttack Stations

3246. SHRI S. KUNDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to construct over-bridges near Balasore and Cuttack Railway stations in S.E. Railway to relieve congestion of traffic at the level crossing gates; and

(b) when will the actual construction begin there?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). A proposal for the construction of a road overbridge near Balasore, in replacement of the existing level crossing on Remuna Road at km 230/6-7, has already been included in the Railway's Works Programme for the current financial year. Estimate for the work has been sent to the State Government of Orissa for acceptance. Construction of the road overbridge will be taken up after the estimate is accepted by the State Government.

As regards the proposed road overbridge at Cuttack in replacement of the existing level crossing at km 408/2-3, detailed plans, design and estimate of the State Government's portion of the work, are still awaited from them. Subject to the availability of funds, the proposal will be considered for inclusion in the Railway's future Works Programmes, after the necessary preliminaries (preparation of drawings, designs, estimates and their mutual acceptance by the State Government and the Railway) are completed.

Restriction on the Inter-State movement of Fertilizers

3247. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a restriction on the inter-state movement of fertilizers;

(b) whether there is a glut of Nitrogenous Fertilizers with the manufacturers; and

(c) whether Government are considering to lift the restrictions of inter-state movement of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The build up of stock with the manufacturers during the period March to the middle of the June each year is a seasonal phenomenon. The stock of nitrogenous fertilizers with the manufacturers was 2.95 lakh tonnes of nitrogen on the 15th May, 1977 as compared to the stock of 3.22 lakh tonnes of nitrogen as on the 15th May, 1976. The stock is only marginally higher than the accepted critical level of stock (i.e. 30 days production) with the manufacturers. With the onset of the monsoon and the sowing season, the stocks with the manufacturers are expected to begin moving out and drop to the planned level.

(c) No, Sir. The restrictions on Inter-State movement of fertilizers imposed under the Fertilizer Movement Control Order are intended to facilitate the drawing up of a coordinated plan for the allocation of fertilizers—both indigenous and imported—to the State Governments. The supply plan, which is drawn up in consultation with the Railways and the manufacturers, ensures the supply of the desired quantities of fertilizers to the State Governments in a manner which would not necessitate long haulages and cross movements. Thus, the framing of a coordinated plan facilitates movement of fertilizers on a 'priority' basis by the railways and reduces expenditure on freight.

पश्चिम रेलवे में ऊपरि और निचले पुलों का निर्माण

3248. श्री धर्मसिंह भाई पटेल :
रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1977-78 के दौरान पश्चिम रेलवे में कितने ऊपरी और निचले पुलों के निर्माण के लिए कार्यक्रम बनाया गया है अथवा बनाने का विचार है ।

(ख) इन पुलों का निर्माण कहाँ-कहाँ किया जायेगा तथा उन पर कितना व्यय किया जाएगा ; और

(ग) उन पुलों का निर्माण कब आरम्भ होगा और कब समाप्त होगा ?

रेल मंत्री (प्रो० मधु बंड्योते) :
(क) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के लिए पश्चिम रेलवे के निर्माण-कार्य कार्यक्रम में 9 ऊपरी सड़क पुलों के निर्माण का प्रस्ताव शामिल कर लिया गया है । इसमें वे 5 नये निर्माण कार्य शामिल हैं जिनका प्रस्ताव 1977-78 के दौरान किया गया था ।

(ख) और (ग). एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा गया है । [ग्रन्थालय में रखा गया । देखिए संख्या LT 672/77]

भावनगर डिब्बीजन में रेलवे लाइन बन्द करना

3249. श्री धर्मसिंह भाई पटेल :
क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पश्चिम रेलवे के भावनगर डिब्बीजन में गत चार वर्षों में बंद की जाने वाली रेलवे लाइनों के नाम क्या हैं और प्रत्येक लाइन किन-किन तारीखों को बंद की गई और उनको बन्द किये जाने के कारण क्या थे ;

(ख) उक्त बंद हुई रेलवे लाइनों को कब तक पुनः चालू किया जायेगा ; और

(ग) क्या इन लाइनों को पुनः चालू करने के बारे में कोई अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं और यदि हाँ, तो, वे किसने भेजे और सरकार ने इस बारे में क्या कार्यवाही की अथवा करने का विचार है ?

रेल मंत्री (प्रो० मधु बंड्योते) : (क) पिछले चार वर्षों के दौरान भावनगर मण्डल में ऐसी कोई रेलवे लाइन बन्द नहीं की गई । किन्तु कुंकावाव-देरदी खंड पर चलने वाली मिलीजुली गाड़ियों की एक जोड़ी को ही उस समय हो रही कोयले की अत्याधिक कमी के कारण 3-5-74 से रद्द कर दिया गया था और जिसे अभी तक पुनः चालू नहीं किया गया है ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।