

[*Translation*]

Unmanned Railway Crossings in Maharashtra

2581. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents take place frequently on unmanned railway crossings ;

(b) the number of unmanned railway crossings in Maharashtra ;

(c) whether Government propose to construct speed breakers on both sides of such unmanned crossings so that all vehicles move there slowly ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : No, Sir. There are 22,186 unmanned level crossings on the Indian Railway and during the year 1984-85, 43 accidents occurred at such level crossings.

(b) There are about 276 unmanned level crossings in Maharashtra.

(c) Instructions exist from the Ministry of Shipping and Transport to the State Governments to provide speed breakers on approaches to unmanned level crossings.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Study of Ground Water Resources in Tribal Belt

2582. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Ground Water Board has taken

up a project to study the availability of ground water in the tribal belt; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHAN-KARANAND) : (a) and (b): The Central Ground Water Board, with the assistance of UNDP, has taken up a project for assessment of ground water potential and preparation of plans for further development in an area of 29,700 sq. km. in Kasai and Subernrekha river basins in the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa. The studies in the project would cover 24,550 sq. km. area categorised as tribal in these States. Detailed surveys and exploration for ground water with the help of drilling, geophysical surveys as well as other advanced techniques are being carried out under this project. Over 100 experimental tubewells would be drilled and the successful tubewells would be handed over to the State Governments for utilisation and recommendations on locations of prospective areas for ground water development and dugwell and tubewell sites will be made to the State Governments.

Bridge Over Chambal River Near Kota on Jaipur-Jabalpur National Highway.

2583. SHRI JUJHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bridge over river Chambal on the Jaipur-Jabalpur National Highway near Kota is under construction for many years ;

(b) if so, whether the progress of construction of this bridge is very slow and when it is expected to be ready to take the traffic ; and

(c) whether the diversion of the heavy traffic on the Kota-Dam Irrigation road during rainy season and

otherwise is technically sound and proper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Government of Rajasthan the construction of the bridge has been delayed due to problems experienced in sinking of the well foundations and it is likely to be completed by June, 1987.

(c) After technical examination the Irrigation Department of Rajasthan has permitted diversion of traffic over the road Kota-Dam.

[*Translation*]

Closure of NG and MG Rail Lines in Saurashtra

2584. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of narrow gauge and metre-gauge lines that have been closed down in Saurashtra area of Western Railway;

(b) the reasons for closure of these rail lines and number of passengers affected thereby ;

(c) whether representation have been received by the railway authorities for re-opening the rail lines ; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Train services for passenger traffic in Saurashtra area of Western Railway have been suspended on 5 branch line sections, one on the Narrow Gauge and four on the Metre Gauge of Western Railway.

(b) On account of the conversion of Viramgam. Okha-Porbander Metre

Gauge line into Broad Gauge, three sections became isolated and in the case of remaining two sections, the train services were withdrawn due to meagre traffic. All these five sections are very well served by road transport and frequent bus services are being operated by Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation. Thus, passengers are not affected due to withdrawal of train services on these sections.

(c) and (d): No such representations have been received.

[*English*]

Increase in Line Capacity between Ahmedabad and Bombay

2585. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan for increase in the line capacity between Ahmedabad and Bombay on the Western Railway with a view to provide additional train facilities during Seventh Plan period ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Meetings of UN Member States in Nairobi to Review the Progress made During UN Decade for Women

2586. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UN Member States had a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya during the third week of July this year to review the progress made during the UN Decade for women ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and