

diture on maintenance and repairs of rolling stock in the recent years;

(b) whether this increase has shown any significant results in the upkeep and availability of rolling stock; and

(c) if not, what steps Government propose to take to improve the situation?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN):** (a) Yes, there has been some increase in expenditure on repairs and maintenance of rolling stock in the recent years largely due to escalation in wages and material costs.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Railway Bridge at Babupeth**

9670. **SHRI RAJE VESHVESHWAR RAO:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the people of Chandrapur have submitted a memorandum to the Government asking it to construct a Railway bridge at Babupeth in Chandrapur; and

(b) if it is a fact, when is the Government intending to start its construction?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN):** (a) Yes. The request is for the construction of a road over-bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 44 between Chanda and Babupeth.

(b) It is not possible to say when the construction will be started as the State Government who have to share the cost of construction have yet to convey their final decision in this regard.

#### **Payment of Compensation**

9671. **SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation paid by the South Eastern Railway during the last two years (year-wise) to private parties for loss and damage of goods in the course of transportation; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to minimise such loss/damage?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN):** (a) The South-Eastern Railway paid Rs. 2 crores during 1976-77 and Rs. 2.25 crores in 1977-78 as gross amount of Compensation for loss and damage of goods to all the claimants. Amount of claim paid as compensation to private parties is not separately maintained.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Railway to minimise loss/damage of goods in the course of transportation.—

- (i) Escorting of goods trains carrying iron and steel, food-grains, sugar, oilseeds etc. by Railway Protection Force armed personnel in vulnerable sections;
- (ii) Patrolling by armed Railway Protection Force Personnel in vulnerable yards;
- (iii) Collection of crime intelligence and conducting of surprise raids by the staff of the Crime Intelligence of the Railway with a view to tracking down criminals and receivers of stolen goods;
- (iv) Guiding and educating the staff to make them more and more conscious of the need to prevent loss of and damage to consignments;