

(c) the steps taken so far to bring the culprit to book ;

(d) whether it has been found that this practice has been in vogue there for a long time ; and

(e) whether any departmental inquiry has been ordered ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri) : (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not rise.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

KAGDAR BRIDGE

2345. Shri Bheekha Bhai : Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the total amount to be spent on the construction of the bridge over river Kagdar near village Kagdar on National Highway No. 8 ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri) : The bridge is estimated to cost Rs. 4,54,100.

RISE IN FOODGRAIN PRICES

2346. Shri Bheekha Bhai : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of foodgrains abnormally rise in backward areas unconnected by railways ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that due to the attractive prices, the foodgrains are exported from backward areas to other urban areas resulting in deficit in these areas ; and

(c) how do Government propose to stop the rising of prices in these areas ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) The prices of foodgrains in centres in the interior away from the railhead depend largely on the local production and are low if the area is surplus in foodgrains and are high if it is deficit.

(b) Exports from interior backward areas, unconnected by rail, can take place only when prices in these areas are substantially lower than those in the urban areas. As a general rule prices in the surplus areas in the interior always remain low.

(c) The Government of India have already taken suitable remedial measures to bring down the prices in the urban areas such as banning of export, issue of wheat from Central Sales Depots freely at Rs. 14 per maund and release of substantial quantities of rice from Central stocks to State Governments at Rs. 16 per maund. These measures would reduce the demands of urban areas on the supplies in the interior and would help in bringing down the prices in internal centres as well. In suitable cases, it is open to the State Governments to arrange for distribution of rice at fair prices in such "backward" areas.

PASSENGER AMENITIES

2347. Shri K. C. Jena : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that flush latrines and urinals do not exist in the first class waiting room at the Balasore Railway station, Orissa ;

(b) whether the necessity for the construction of an overbridge at the western side of that Railway station has been brought to the notice of Government ; and

(c) if so, the decisions taken in these matters ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri) : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) An estimate for the provision of sanitary fittings in the upper class waiting rooms at Balasore Railway station has recently been sanctioned and the work will be taken in hand shortly. Level crossings exist at either end of Balasore Railway station yard and no proposal for providing an overbridge has been mooted so far.