

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) A deputation of All India Organisation of Employers made this suggestion.

(b) Other suggestions related to payment of minimum bonus, recognition of trade unions, setting up of independent industrial relations commission and promotion of voluntary arbitration for the settlement of disputes.

(c) The suggestions are under consideration of Government.

Zimbabwe Elections

1213. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPA YEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "front-line" states in Africa have criticised the recent elections in Zimbabwe as being not free and fair;

(b) if so, whether Government has received any reports from its representatives stationed abroad about the nature and conduct of these elections; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The "front-line" states had criticised certain decisions of the British Governor but they have welcomed the outcome of the elections in Zimbabwe.

(b) and (c). Information received from our representatives confirms the broad conclusions of the Commonwealth Observer Group. This Group, under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajeshwar Dayal, noted a number of shortcomings but came to the unanimous conclusion that the "elections upto the end of polling can be considered to have been free and fair to the extent that it provided an adequate and acceptable means of determining the wishes of the people in a democratic manner."

गंगा नदी पर रेलवे पुल

1214. प्रो० लखदेव सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पटना में गंगा नदी पर रेलवे पुल के निर्माण के प्रस्ताव की रूपरेखा क्या है ; और

(ख) इस रेलवे पुल का निर्माण कब तक पूरा हो जाएगा ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी० के० जाधव शरीफ) : (क) वर्तमान प्रस्ताव गंडक क पश्चिम में पटना को सोनपुर के साथ मिलाने के लिए है । लेकिन, योजना पर विचार करने से पहले, नमूना प्रयोगों आदि के द्वारा इसका अध्ययन किया जाना आवश्यक है ताकि पटना सिटी की संरक्षा सुनिश्चित की जा सके । इस पहलू पर केन्द्रीय जल एवं बिजली अनुसंधान स्टेशन, पुणे द्वारा अभी विचार किया जा रहा है ।

(ख) उक्त तकनीकी रिपोर्ट प्राप्त होने तथा घन उपलब्ध होने पर ही इस सम्बन्ध में अन्तिम निर्णय लिया जा सकता है ।

Clearance of Import Cargoes

1215. SHRI FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether slow clearance of import cargoes from the sheds is causing concern to the shipping department;

(b) if so, whether this is acting as a deterrent to smooth flow of export cargoes through the same sheds;

(c) if so, whether this in turn slows down the loading rate and compels the ships to stay on the berths for much longer period;

(d) if so, whether Government have taken or are considering drastic steps to improve the clearance of import cargoes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) There has been, at times, congestion due to slow clearance of import cargo from some of the major ports. However, the position has been