

bhakaran was virtually in selfdom having been made to work 17 hours a day.

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) what action, if any, is being taken to safeguard the interests of the Indians serving in the United States of America?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d). Shri V. Prabhakaran entered the USA in August, 1972 on a visitor visa and took up employment with Shri Romesh Chandra Dutt in violation of the visa Regulations. It was only in November, 1977 that he obtained a labour certificate entitling him to work legally in that country. Shri Dutt, on the other hand, is now a naturalised American citizen. The Secretary of Labour, United States Department of Labour, filed a suit at a district court in New York under 'The Fair Labour Standards Act' on behalf of Shri Prabhakaran. The court came to the conclusion that Shri Prabhakaran had worked 13½ hours each work day. The court ordered Shri Dutt to pay US \$ 25,498.26 as wages for normal time, US \$ 7,183.24 as over time and US \$ 32,333 as het back wages.

(e) Indian Embassies extend all possible assistane as and when approached for help by Indians living abroad. In this case, however, Shri Prabhakaran neither approached the Indian Embassy in Washington nor the Consulate General of India in New York for any kind of assistance.

#### **Supply of Hydrographic data by China**

4659: **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese used to supply regularly correct hydrographic data to India till 1962 concern-

ing Brahmaputra river in India which have catchments in Tibet;

(b) whether it is also a fact that China has fully equipped hydrographic data centres in CHUSUL and other areas which could be immensely helpful in the flood control effects; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to co-operate the efforts and make use of the Chinese resources?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):** (a) & (b). It is a fact that Government of India have in the past between 1955 and 1962 received hydrographic data pertaining to discharges from the Brahmaputra from China.

(c) In keeping with Government's stated policy, we keep under constant review the best means of carrying out exchanges in various fields with China. Various proposals made by the two governments are under discussion at present. We have yet to consider exchange of hydrographic data. Our flood forecasting system has improved considerably and while this data could be useful, it is no longer considered essential.

#### **Widening of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Road**

4660. **SHRI RASA BEHARI BEHRA:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered Orissa Government's proposal for widening of Cuttack-

Bhubaneshwar road and construction of four lanes to avoid accidents taking place frequently; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):**

(a) and (b). Due to financial constraints the widening of Cuttack-Bhubaneshwar Road to four lanes could not be considered for inclusion in the five year plan (1978—83). However, this work would be considered for inclusion in the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85) depending upon the availability of resources and other priorities.

**Arrest of Ticketless Travellers at Delhi/New Delhi**

4661. **SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of ticketless travellers were arrested in Delhi and New Delhi Railway Stations on the 23rd and 24th June, 1980; and

(b) if so, the number of passengers arrested and the total amount collected on these two days?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):** (a) and (b). No ticketless traveller was arrested at Delhi and New Delhi Stations on 23rd and 24th June, 1980. However, 57 persons were detected without tickets or with improper tickets and a sum of Rs. 890.20 was realised from them as railway dues.

**Number of Apprentices Receiving Training**

4662. **SHRI BHIKHU RAM JAIN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of apprentices receiving training in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for reduction in their number in succeeding years; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to enable larger number of people to receive apprentice training?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH):** (a) The number of apprentices receiving training at the end of March, in respect of previous three years is as under:

1977	1.58 lakhs
1978	1.41 lakhs
1979	1.25 lakhs

(b) and (c). The engagement of large number of apprentices affected the quality of training and the employment prospects of the passed-out apprentices. To correct this imbalance, efforts were made to improve the quality of training by impressing on the Apprenticeship Advisers and the employers that the number of apprentices to be engaged for training should be realistically co-related to the actual physical training facilities available in each establishment.

**Markanda Bridge**

4663. **SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:**  
**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:**

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 1250-foot long Markanda bridge on the Ambala-Delhi Highway, which has been inaugurated recently, has been closed to traffic;

(b) if so, concrete reasons therefor; and

(c) action proposed to be taken in the matter?