

has been commenced. Work has not, so far, started on the other two bridges over Bhargavi and Dhanua.

(b) The grant of Rs. 18 lakhs is for the road work as well as the bridges and causeways. Nearly Rs. 9 lakhs have been utilized by the State Government over the project.

(c) Not so far.

(d) The work is being executed by the State Public Works Department who will no doubt complete it without avoidable delay.

Damodar Valley Soil

1986. { Shri Subodh Hanada:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Soil Research Laboratory at Hazaribagh is carrying out investigations on the properties of soil of the Damodar Valley.

(b) if so, the results of the research carried out up-to-date; and

(c) how long will it take to complete the investigation of the whole valley?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Nathi): (a) and (b) The Soil Laboratory was started under the Soil Conservation Department of the DVC in 1949 to examine and advise on the suitability of the waste land for reclamation, better use of lands and amelioration of the soils of the Damodar Valley. The Laboratory has been furnishing analytical data of samples of soil, water, rock, crops and manure and interpretation of the analytical data for programme of soil conservation works.

2. At present the main work in the Soil Conservation Laboratory is to analyse the samples of soil, water, rock etc. received from time to time. A number of field trials and potculture experiments have been conducted on typical soils of Upper Damodar Valley to find out the nutrient deficiencies

and to adopt proper ameliorative measures for this region. The experiments have revealed that deficiencies of nitrogen and phosphoric acid are wide-spread in these soils. The red soils respond to applications of nitrogen and phosphate in adequate doses for growth of different crops. Gorapaddy responded to nitrogen in Hazaribagh soil (non-calcareous), but nitrogen alone did not respond in Kenthol soil (calcareous) presumably due to non-availability of the soil phosphates. Potassium deficiency is seldom found in this region. Copper, manganese and magnesium gave no response with the crops of this region. Cowpea showed response to application of *Strydomium* salts. *Lantana* was found beneficial to leguminous plants (like pea) and fodder grass (like *Panicum antidotale*). Phosphate fixation studies have been carried out with red soils of this region and the fixation was found to be of a very high order. The results of the studies on some soil samples showed that cation exchange capacity of the soils was very low.

Microbiological studies carried out on soils of the peripheral regions of Konar Reservoir subjected to periodic submergence have revealed that microbial population was not affected appreciably after submergence for 6 months. No species of *Azotobacter* was found to exist in these soils.

(c) The Soil Research Laboratory has no research programme of its own, the laboratory research being dependent upon works in various sectors of the Soil Conservation Department. The question of completion of the work within a time scheduled does not, therefore, arise.

Fact Finding Committee on Khandari Industry

1986. { Shri Barman:
Shri Subodh Hanada:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fact Finding Committee on the Khandari Industry has

submitted its final report to Government;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee,

(c) whether the report has been considered by Government, and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to implement the recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The Fact Finding Committee has reported that the information collected by it after the submission of the Interim Report has confirmed conclusions arrived at in the Interim Report and requested that the same be treated as Final Report.

(b) Copies of the Report have been placed in the Library of the Parliament

(c) and (d) The Report was considered by the Government and powers were delegated to the Government of UP to license establishment of power crushers including bels. Under these powers, the UP Government issued the U.P. Khandasari Sugar Manufacturers' Licensing Order, 1959 on the 24th February, 1959. This order applies to the reserved areas of sugar factories in the 30 khandasari producing districts.

Public Health Engineering

1957. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the completion of the building for Public Health Engineering in the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): Administrative approval has been accorded. Preliminary estimates for the construction of the building have been received and are being scrutinised for according technical sanction

Determination of Backward Areas for Postal Facilities

1958. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1297 on the 17th March, 1959 and state

(a) the procedure followed in determining the backward areas for purposes of extension of postal facilities; and

(b) the backward areas so determined (State-wise)?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Those areas are included in the schedule of 'very backward areas' for the purpose of extension of postal facilities which have not been developed on account of difficult terrain, sparse population or lack of literacy and where owing to long lines of communications post offices are expected to work at a loss exceeding the normal permissible limits

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No 99]

New Railway Lines in Punjab

1959. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Daljit Singh

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to his speech in Lok Sabha on the 5th March 1959 and state

(a) whether Government have considered the following proposals for construction of new lines in Punjab:

(i) Jagadhri-Chandigarh - Rupar-Ludhiana line

(ii) Bbiwani-Rohtak line; and

(iii) Gohana-Panipat line; and

(b) if so, the nature of action taken in this regard?