

ments particularly Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa to provide adequate facilities for instructions in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups as envisaged under article 350-A of the Constitution ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and proposals, if any, to make amends in respect of and specific time-frame proposed therefor ; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend the scope of article 350-A so as to provide for the use of mother tongue in adult education among the linguistic minorities groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) and (b) Instruction through mother-tongue at the primary stage of education is accepted in principle by most of the States and Union Territories including Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Orissa. They provide for these facilities wherever possible.

(c) No, Sir.

लहरतारा (वाराणसी) में ऊपर पुल

756. श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कुछ वर्ष पहले पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के अन्तर्गत वाराणसी के लहरतारा में एक विशाल ऊपर पुल का निर्माण किया गया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका मूल बजट क्या था और इस पर वास्तव में कुल कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई थी ;

(ग) इस पुल की कितनी आयु निर्धारित की गई थी तथा इस पुल का निर्माण सम्बन्धी ब्योरा क्या है ; और

(घ) क्या सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि यह पुल अल्प समय में क्षतिग्रस्त हो रहा है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री ए० बी० ए० गनी खां चौधरी) : (क) जी हां, वाराणसी और मंडुआडहि के बीच समपार सं० 2 पर एक ऊपरि मड़क पुल का निर्माण किया गया था ।

(ख) 1970-71 में जब इस काम को निर्माण कार्यक्रम में शामिल किया गया था तो उसकी प्रारम्भिक अनुमति लागत में 24.9 लाख रुपये थी और उसकी पूर्ति लागत 54.0 लाख रुपये थी । लागत को रेलवे तथा राज्य सरकार द्वारा समान रूप से बांटी गयी थी ।

(ग) मूल्यहास के उद्देश्य के लिए पुलों का कार्यक्रम इस्पात के लिए 60 वर्ष तथा चिनाई के लिए 100 वर्ष रखा गया है । रेलों ने रेलपथ के ऊपर मुख्य पुल बनाया था । पहुंच मार्ग तथा डेक स्वेप भाग का निर्माण राज्य लोक निर्माण विभाग द्वारा किया गया था ।

(घ) रेलों रेलपथ के ऊपर मुख्य पुल का अनुरक्षण कर रही हैं और उसकी क्षति नहीं हुई है । पुल के ऊपर मड़क सतह और पहुंच मार्गों का अनुरक्षण राज्य लोक निर्माण विभाग द्वारा किया जा रहा है ।

Regularisation of Casual Labour

757. SHRI S.A. DORAI SEBASTIAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of casual labourers working on the Railways and the total amount of salaries and wages paid to them ;

(b) the details of 80,000 casual labourers employed on various construction

projects who are reported to have been regularised ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to regularise all the casual labourers ?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUHDURY) : (a) At present about 2.08 lakhs casual labourers are working on Indian Railways. Approximately Rs. 81 crores was paid as wages and salaries to casual labourers including those on monthly scales of pay, during 1981-82.

(b) The details are being obtained from the Railways concerned and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) At present all class IV vacancies except in workshops are being filled from amongst screened casual labour. Efforts are also being made to create new posts for the regularisation of such labour.

It is not however, possible to formulate any time bound plan for regularisation of all the casual labourers. Utmost consideration is given to casual labour for their regularisation against regular posts ; yet the Railways are handicapped by the limited potential for absorption in regular cadre in relation to the large force of casual labour currently on the rolls in addition to those already discharged on completion of works who constantly ask absorption in regular service.

Threat to Frontline countries by South Africa

758. SHRI P.K. KODIYAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the frontline countries of Africa are constantly feeling threat to their security posed by the racist South African regime ;

(b) whether the air raid carried out on the Mozambique capital Maputo by South African air force planes in last May has exposed the aggressive designs of the racist regime against the frontline countries ; and

(c) if so, what steps India has taken to help the frontline countries to face the increasing threat to their security from the racist regime in Pretoria ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The air raid on Maputo by South Africa in May this year as also a series of continuing aggressive actions committed by the racist regime against the frontline and neighbouring states amply prove its aggressive and sinister designs against the peace-loving independent States of the region.

(c) India has consistently followed a policy of extending moral, material and diplomatic support to the frontline states for the courage and determination with which they have been facing the increasing threat to their sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and stability from the racist regime, and, for their support to liberation movements in Southern Africa in spite of constant intimidation by the racist regime in Pretoria. The Political Declaration of the 7th Non-Aligned Summit held in March 1983 in New Delhi which lends full support to the frontline states against South Africa provides the latest testimony to our own as also of non-aligned world's sincere support for the just cause of these nations.

Cut in the plan of Shipping Corporation of India to enter the ONGC'S Off-Shore Field

759. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :

SHRI E. BALANANDAN :
SHRI NIREN GHOSH :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that with a view to favour private companies, the Public Investment Board made drastic cut in the plan of the Shipping Corporation of India's Rs. 88 crores plan to enter