

Railway Bridge at Chhitauni

5569. SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to his reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1402 dated 1 December, 1983 regarding Railway Bridge at Chhitauni and state :

(a) whether examination of the hydraulic studies for Chhitauni-Bagaha rail bridge has since been completed ;

(b) if so, details thereabout including total cost and time schedule ;

(c) whether actual distance between Nirmali and Saraigarh is only about 18 kilometres and estimated cost was inflated on the wrong assumption of its being about 58 kms ;

(d) if so, whether resurvey on the basis of actual total distance and actual distance of bridges and railway lines in between is proposed to be conducted ; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOU-DHURY) : (a) and (b) Hydraulic studies are required to be made at different stages, for different purposes prior to commencement of the work. Some Preliminary studies have been completed. The work on the project can, however, be taken up only when the question of funds/resources settled. The project involves provision of control points and river training works at the cost of State Govts. of U. P. and Bihar, with contributions also being made by the Union Ministry of Irrigation. Since the present cost of the project is about Rs. 61 crores, out of which the major share is that of the State Govt. etc., for the river training works (Rs. 38 crores) and this entire work has to be carried out within the river Khadir of about 8 kms. in width, in one or two working seasons, it is necessary to have the entire funds available and assured before any work is ventured in the river bed. Since the State Governments etc. have neither deposited their full share nor conveyed their commitment to bear the further increased cost due to escalation, the work in the river bed cannot be started or progressed. Starting of further works and progressing them as also fixing the target date for completion would thus entirely depend on the availability of funds/resources.

(c) to (e) While the distance between Nirmali and Saraigarh as per the old abandoned alignment disrupted in 1938, was of the order of 12 to 13 kms. the restoration of the old alignment was not a practical proposition due to the unstable character of the Kosi river. During the Preliminary Engineering-cum-traffic survey carried out in 1977, three alternative alignments were examined, with a bridge across Kosi being considered near the proposed Dagmara barrage. It was not found feasible to join the alignment at Saraigarh due to low level and water logged area to the east of Kosi. The alignment was, therefore, proposed to be terminated at the 58.33 kms. at Bhimnagar, which was the terminal point of another alignment carried out in another survey for an MG line from Bathnaha/Lalitgram to Bhimnagar. The total length of the MG line was expected to be 84.23 kms. from Nirali to Lalitgram via Bhimnagar. There was no question of inflating the estimated cost by wrongly assuming the length of the project as 58 kms.

The cost of the project was worked out in 1977, on the presumption that the river training works and provision of control points within the river Kosi will be borne by the State Govts., due to the unstable character of the river in this reach. Having regard to the severe constraint on resources and absence of any further development, regarding construction of control points in the form of Dagmara barrage by the State Govt., no useful purpose will be served by carrying out a fresh survey for a railway line in this region, at this stage.

Report Re. Children Suffering Due to Adequate Iodine in Mother's Body

5570. DR. A. U. AZMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of researchers in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi discovered that one out of 20 children born in 11 populous districts of the sub-Himalayan belt in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Northern Bihar is virtually retarded with no hope of recovery and the cause given is lack of adequate iodine in mother's body and have submitted a report in this behalf ; and