

- (i) The Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Poona;
- (ii) The Astrophysical Observatory, Kodaikanal;
- (iii) The Colaba & Alibag Observatories, Bombay; and
- (iv) The Seismological Division.

The recommendation in regard to the first three units has been implemented with effect from the 1st April, 1971. The question of constituting the research activities of the Seismology Division into an autonomous institute will be reviewed after the current study undertaken by the Planning Commission to draw up an integrated plan of work in the field of Seismology is completed.

**Improvement of Girna Bridge Near Malegaon District Nasik (Maharashtra)**

4468. SHRI Z. M. KAHANDOLE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious truck accident on the Girna bridge near Malegaon (District Nasik) on the 22nd May, 1971 in which more than 40 people died;

(b) if so, the steps taken for improvement of the Bridge which is very narrow and without any safety; and

(c) whether Government of India propose to give any aid to the Maharashtra Government for this project and if so, how much ?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not a fact that the bridge is very narrow and without any safety. It is an arch bridge having 26 spans of 30 ft. each, with a 22 ft. wide roadway and is safe for taking all heavy commercial vehicular traffic and is in good condition. It is adequate for present day two way traffic. It is also provided with pipe railings on either side of it. In view of this, the question of improvement of the existing bridge does not arise.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question of the Government of India giving any aid for improving the existing bridge does not arise. However, to relieve congestion of Malegaon town a bypass is proposed on which a new bridge will also be provided.

12.02 hrs.

**RE: CALLING ATTENTION**

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) :** May I make one submission before you take up the next item? This is in regard to the US arms supply to Pakistan and President Nixon's statement thereon. You have said that we can debate upon this while discussing the Demands for Grants relating to the Defence Ministry. But I would like to submit that we shall not be able to get any reply from the Defence Minister on this, because this concerns the External Affairs Ministry. . .

**SHRI P. K. DEO : (Kalahandi)** It is a matter of serious concern to the entire House. . .

**MR. SPEAKER :** I would like to tell the hon. Member that if Members want a debate, they should not come under rule 377. There are other procedures for it.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior) :** It can come in the form of a calling attention notice. It can be allowed in that form.

**MR. SPEAKER :** There is no calling-attention—notice before me just now.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** We have given notice of it.

**SHRI P. K. DEO :** We had also given notice of it but it has been disallowed.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Kindly hear me for half a minute. I had sent in a calling-attention-notice, and I had also written to you. This statement had been made yesterday by no less a person than the President of USA, President Nixon. The report is to the effect that President Nixon refuses to stop the arms supply and millions worth of arms are still in the pipeline. That is