

Racket of Change Dealers in Bombay

5757. SHRI K. BALATHAND-
AYUTHAM :
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of a racket of change dealers who corner the change supplied by Reserve Bank of India, Bombay, with a view to rigging up the market rate for its supply against currency notes ; and

(b) if so, the action taken to put a stop to this racket ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b). During the three months commencing February 1971, when the Reserve Bank made issues of small coins across the counters at their office at Bombay at Rs. 350 per person, they did find that almost the same persons appeared daily at the exchange counters to obtain supplies of small coins, and also that they were trying to get as much change as possible by repeatedly standing in the queues at different coin windows. There was ground for suspicion that some people were making a business out of the supplies made by the Reserve Bank. For this reason as well as others connected with the need for meeting the requirements of up-country small coin depots, the Reserve Bank has reduced the issues to Rs. 52.50 per person at the counters.

Delay in Completion of Wangoo and Suguru Bridges

5758. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether prolonged delay in the completion of Wangoo and Suguru Bridges on the Manipur river is causing great inconvenience to the general public ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to quicken the completions of the above mentioned bridges ; and

(c) the causes that led to the delay in the completion of the two bridges ?

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

(b) and (c). The delay in completion of Wangoo and Suguru Bridges in Manipur is due to the fact that the contractors for these two bridges have gone for arbitration with the work left incomplete. The contracts of these two bridges have been rescinded and fresh tenders for balance work are being invited by the Manipur Government.

Bridge on Nambul River

5759. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the absence of a motorable bridge on Nambul river between Khwairamband Bazar and Naoremthong has caused great inconvenience to the people on both sides of the river ;

(b) if so, whether a proposal has been sent to the Centre for the construction of the bridge ; and

(c) if so, when the construction will start ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. There exist two motorable bridges over Nambul river (i) at Khwairamband Bazar, and (ii) at Naoremthong, within a distance of about one mile. Besides, there are two suspension bridges for pedestrians over Nambul river between Khwairamband Bazar and Naoremthong Bridge. No proposal has been sent to Government of India for construction of the bridge.

Construction of Thumbuthong Bridge in Manipur

5760. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Manipur is considering the construction of Thumbuthong bridge at a new site in view of the damage done to the present bridge by the