

Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The U.S. Government has communicated to the Government of India their approval for a loan of \$20.2 million (Rs. 9.6 crores) to finance the foreign exchange cost of the Pam-ba-Kakki Hydro-electric Project. In respect to the rupee cost of the project amounting to Rs. 15.31 crores, it is the intention of the Government of India to enter into an agreement by which the U. S. Government will give to the Government of India a loan from the P. L. 480 counter-part funds, to be drawn in reimbursement of the expenditure to be incurred on the project. No loan agreement either in respect of the dollar portion or the rupee portion has, however, yet been signed.

Tetanus, Diphtheria among Children

*835. **Shrimati Vimla Devi**: will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of children die of tetanus, whooping cough and diphtheria in early childhood;

(b) if so, their number during the last 5 years; and

(c) whether in view of the fact that triple antigen is an effective prevention for these, Government have considered the question of freely distributing triple antigen to doctors for immunising infant population against these deadly diseases?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) and (b). Information regarding deaths from tetanus is not available. Such information as is available in respect of deaths from whooping cough and diphtheria among children recorded in certain States during the years 1956-60 is given in the statements laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 62 and 63 respectively].

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

Over-bridge at Tirur in Kozhikode

1363. **Shri Koya**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway crossings in the Kerala State;

(b) the number of over-bridges constructed since 1947;

(c) whether Government are aware of the difficulties and hardships caused to road passengers by the frequent closing of the Railway gate at Tirur in Kozhikode District;

(d) whether Government are aware that the gate is closed even for shunting as the same is very near to the station;

(e) whether Government have surveyed the cost of an over-bridge at Tirur; and

(f) whether the Government will consider the question of constructing an over-bridge at Tirur in the Five Year Plan period?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) 369 level crossings including cattle crossings.

(b) Construction of one Road over-bridge at Kokkalai level crossing near Trichur (Mile S.20/6-7) has been completed and four over-bridges are in progress.

(c) and (d). The level crossing is very close to the station, and as both the road and rail traffic at this point are heavy, the traffic is held up but the detention normally does not exceed 10 minutes at a time.

(e) and (f). The scheme for road over or under-bridge in place of existing level crossing has to be sponsored by the State Government. There has been no proposal from the Government of Kerala for a road over/under bridge at Tirur station in replacement of the existing level crossing, during the Third Five Year Plan.