

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Regarding the proposed over-bridge construction for 1981-82, may I know how many over-bridges are included for Andhra Pradesh? May I know how much would be the estimated cost?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: There are 13 new over-bridges which have been included in the 1981-82 survey. There are to be two over-bridges one at Begumpet and the other at Sanatnagar.

Fracture of Railway Lines

*154. **DR. GOLAM YAZDANI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many times "fracture of Railway line" occurred in the railway line between Katihar Junction and Malda station in N. E. Frontier Railway during the last 4 months of 1980 and on what dates and how long the trains were detained each time;

(b) the causes of such fractures; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to replace this railway line with a line of better quality?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) A statement laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) In the last 4 months of 1980 there have been 40 rail fractures on the railway line between Katihar and Malda Jn. of N. F. Railway. A list showing the dates and the periods of detention of trains is attached.

(b) The fractures were on account of fatigue of rails.

(c) Yes Sir. Two new works for renewal with 52 Kg. rails for a length of 52 kms on this section have been included in the Budget for 1981-82 at a total cost of Rs. 188.54 lakhs.

List showing dates of rail fracture & detention of trains on that account.

Date	Detention.
26-9-80	No detention
29-9-80	No detention
30-9-80	No detention
9-10-80	No detention
17-10-80	Goods train 60 minutes
17-10-80	77 Down 90 minutes
17-10-80	43 Up 29 minutes, 59 Up 30 minutes, 156 Up 15 minutes
18-10-80	143 Up 90 minutes
18-10-80	No detention
18-10-80	No detention
18-10-80	60 Down 25 minutes
18-10-80	No detention
19-10-80	166 Dn. 90 minutes, 78 Up 42 minutes, Goods trains - 180 minutes.
20-10-80	No detention
20-10-80	No detention
21-10-80	No detention
21-10-80	43 Up 60 minutes
21-10-80	60 Down 60 minutes
21-10-80	43 Up 60 minutes
22-10-80	247 Up 10 minutes
22-10-80	60 Down 46 minutes
22-10-80	47 Up 50 minutes
22-10-80	347 Up 85 minutes, 77 Down 120 minutes, 60 Dn. 120 minutes.
23-10-80	44 Down 29 minutes
23-10-80	155 Down 34 minutes
24-10-80	No detention
24-10-80	No detention
25-10-80	No detention
25-10-80	47 Up 20 minutes

Date	Detention
28-10-80	77 Down 80 minutes.
29-10-80	No detention
3-11-80	No detention
4-11-80	No detention
8-11-80	No detention
15-11-80	47 Up 20 minutes
21-11-80	No detention
26-11-80	No detention
11-12-80	No detention
22-12-80	155 Down 12 minutes
30-12-80	No detention

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: The hon. Minister has mentioned in his Statement that the fractures were on account of fatigue of rails. What does he mean by 'fatigue of rails'?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: It means that after a certain stage, because of the constant utilisation of the track, the fatigue arises, which otherwise means that there is less strength with the rail track to meet the ongoing traffic. These tracks become strengthless after constant use. That is how we define it.

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: Sir, in the statement he has mentioned that in the last 4 months, there were 40 rail fracture. In 18 days the detentions various between 12 and 120 minutes. How old are these railways line? I do not know why in this particular section fractures are occurring.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: In this particular section between Katihar Junction and Malda station, the rails are 20 years old. Generally within 20 years, the fatigue does not occur. But in this case, it has occurred. Therefore, we are taking the maximum precautions and the work for renewal is already in progress.

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: I want to know whether the Railway Ministry will be able to detect the fracture in time and whether there is any possibility of railway accident happening due to these fractures. What is the arrangement for conducting a survey for detecting these fractures?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: We have got ultrasonice detectors to see that the functional integrity in the Railway is maintained and so far as the fractures on the Indian Railways are concerned, already in the Budget of this financial year, we have included Rs. 110 crores for detecting the factures and he renewal of the tracks.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: How is it that within 20 years of the laying of these rails, these fractures have occurred? I want to know whether the Ministry concerned has examined this position and found out why the fatigue is there on these lines. Is it due to poor quality of rails or some other defect in the rail track etc.?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: There is a standard meter knowing the potentiality of the rails and these rails which had been procured 20 years back had undergone the standard testing of the rails. So far as the fatigue is concerned, this happens generally between 20 and 25 years or so and the Indian Railways are conscious of the fact that there are fractures on these lines and in order to maintain the tracks properly, they always keep on looking after the tracks.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: In the statement made by the hon. Minister, the detentions are more than 100 in number. If you go through the list, you will find that the detentions are mainly on the main line, that is, the trains which are moving from Kumedpur to Malda, Darjeeling Mail, Tinsukia Mail lines, etc., I think the fracture is due to heavy pressure on the single line track, that is, the tracks leading to Assam, North Bengal and the North-Eastern Region. There is a long standing demand that Malda-New Jaipalguri track should have double-tracks so that there is no pressure on the single

track. This will avoid accidents and the running of trains between these stations according to schedule. Even the Governor of Assam, Mr. L. P. Singh made a statement that in the Budget provision for this region there should have been some allocation of funds. Will the hon. Minister please state why the construction of another railway line from Malda to New Jalpaiguri has not been taken up? I want to know whether the hon. Minister would consider this at least now.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KEDAR PANDE): So far as this section is concerned, there are not so many fractures. Of course, we admit that there were about 40 fractures on these lines. We have made a provision in the Budget for the replacement of these lines. We are going to spend Rs. 180 lakhs for this and that difficulty would be over.

So far as other lines are concerned, we do not have sufficient funds for investment for that purpose at present.

Pak-China Collaboration

*156. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing collaboration between Pakistan and China; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated to meet the situation arising therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Government are aware of continuing economic and military cooperation between Pakistan and China. Government have not come across any evidence to suggest any unusual increase in this cooperation in the recent past. Government continue to monitor developments in this regard.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Only yesterday, the hon. Minister of State for Defence, Shri Patil, asserted and confirmed that there are air bases built up in Pakistan with the assistance of China. Today, it has been denied by some representative of the Government

of Pakistan. I presume that the Government of India has got sufficient evidence to prove that there has been military build-up within Pakistan with the assistance of China. In view of this, will the Government take up the matter at diplomatic level with the Governments of Pakistan and China to assert the Government of India's position regarding the existence of air bases in Pakistan?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have not denied that there has been military and economic cooperation between the two countries. It has been going on for a long time and we also have details of this cooperation. From time to time we are monitoring all these things. We are aware of them and we will certainly keep ourselves abreast of what is happening,

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The Government says that they have got details of all the information. Will the Government of India take up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and the Government of China at diplomatic level that this is our information and why do they deny it?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We will do all that is necessary in the interest of the country.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is reported in the press that Pakistan has offered a bilateral summit meeting to discuss import issues between India and Pakistan. Will the Government of India agree to the proposal of Pakistan to have a summit meeting between India and Pakistan to discuss all the outstanding issues between the two countries.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have no information on that and it appears to be a hypothetical question.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: Recently, our elder statesman, Shri Morarji Desai gave an interview to a Pakistan journalist and in that interview he said that there is no need for Pakistan to