

(e) whether the above recommendations have been accepted by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Length: 3495 Metres.

Estimated Cost: (Railway's portion only) Rs. 43 crores for Main Bridge approximately. Rs. 13 crores for Guide bund.

Total: Rs. 56 crores.

(b) Yes.

(c) The length of the bridge had to be increased taking into account the erosion on the South bank of the river. The revised length of the bridge is given in reply to part (a). The revised length of the guide bund is 1470 Metres.

(d) No changes in the bridge or guide bund were recommended by the Tripathy Committee. The Committee's terms of reference did not cover measures for protecting Nowgong District from Flood. The Committee recommended provision of spurs on the south bank as an experimental measure to channelise the flow and to induce siltation.

(e) The recommendation made by the Committee as explained in reply to part (d) was accepted.

Kaliabhomora Bridge over Brahmaputra River

1936. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present target date of completion of the Kaliabhomora Bridge over the Brahmaputra river;

(b) the original target date of completion of the bridge and its guide bund;

(c) the target-date and commitment of the Railways when the construction work was allotted to them;

(d) the total cost of construction at the time of original allotment;

(e) the progress of work of construction of the bridge, the guide bund; and

(f) whether the Railways are directly responsible for the construction of the guide bund?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 1985-86.

(b) 1985-86.

(c) No firm target was indicated at that stage because a gigantic project like a bridge on mighty Brahmaputra require a great deal of time in the completion of Preliminaries such as site/soil investigations, design, seismic and structural dynamic analysis, pre-qualification of tenders etc.

(d) Rs. 24.70 crores as intimated by North Eastern Council based on 1978 price level.

(e) Sinking of four wells on the North Bank is in progress. Collection of boulders for the guide bund work is in progress. Construction of Office building and staff quarters have been completed. Actual work on the guide bund and approaches will be taken up later on.

(f) Yes.

Internal Water Requirements of Brahmaputra Basin

1937. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed assessment of the internal water requirements of

the Brahmaputra basin has been made;

(b) if so, the actual quantum of exploitable water resources of the basin;

(c) the water required for irrigating the entire cultivable area of the basin with 250 per cent cropping intensity;

(d) the water required for drinking and domestic purposes in Municipal and rural sectors on a 50-year perspective; and

(e) the water required for industrial uses and for diffusion of effluents on a 50 year perspective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Persons killed by Jayanti Janata Express at Wadakancheri Railway Station

1938. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two persons were killed and three injured when the Bombay bound Jayanti Janata Express from Trivandrum ran into a crowd of people at Wadakancheri Railway Station recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes. On 2-3-1982 while No. 82 Up Trivandrum Central Bombay Janata Express was on run between Wadakancheri and

Mullurcarai stations 5 persons, presumably trespassers on their way to a festival at local Bhagwathi Temple were knocked down by the train, resulting in the death of 2 and injuries to 3.

(c) and (d) The Police have registered a case and the result of their investigation is awaited.

Coastal Farmers Adopting Prawns Cultivation

1939. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Statesmen dated 21st February, 1982 under the caption "Coastal farmers adopting Prawns Cultivation";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These are:—

(i) Coastal farmers are increasingly switching over from agriculture to lucrative prawn culture, because there is no expenditure involved on labour and fertiliser.

(ii) In the Karwar Kharlands, the farmers are no longer interested in desalinating their soil but, on the other hand they cut the bundhs and let the sea water in for rearing prawns.

(iii) The thrust during the past 3 decades had been towards extending grain crops, regardless of soil suitability.