

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the hon. Minister be able to give us an idea of the wells that are to be constructed district-wise? I was very glad to hear that wells are going to be constructed in Kutch which is a scarcity area. But parts of Saurashtra also experience scarcity of water. Is anything being done for feat?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: All these States are taken care of. In fact, I have given a detailed answer and I have placed it on the Table of the House in which steps taken in each State have been detailed. The hon. Member may kindly go through that statement.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the hon. Minister aware that even in normal years there are parts of Saurashtra where fresh, good, clean drinking water is not available and human beings have to take water for drinking purposes from what is called a tank or a pond where cattle drink and bathe even in normal years?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: With regard to the difficulties in normal years, the Ministry of Health is taking care of that. Under the Ministry of Health there are schemes for rural water supply.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: On paper or in practice?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In practice too.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Have the Government any information of the fast-developing scarcity conditions in the State of Uttar Pradesh and whether they have received any representation from the Government of Uttar Pradesh?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: No, Sir. It is only in Gujarat, Rajasthan and parts of Punjab that there has been difficulty. Not in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: May I know whether Government are aware that Gujarat is very well known for observing untouchability? Under the circumstances, may I know whether whatever tube-wells are to be constructed will be thrown open to all the Scheduled Caste people also? May I know whether Government is going to take that precaution?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is an offence if it is not thrown open to all classes of people.

SHRI VIJAY SINGH: May I know whether Government are aware that the construction of these tube-wells is not going to solve the immediate problem of scarcity that the people are going to experience without transport facilities?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In fact, for that necessary transport facilities are given both by rail and by truck and water is being taken to scarcity areas.

RAIL BRIDGE OVER NARMADA

*216. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trains on Narmada rail bridge from and to Bombay (on the main line of Western Railway) run at a speed of less than 10 miles an hour, and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) and (b) Due to a few top flange angles of rail-bearers having developed incipient cracks at the ends, a temporary speed restriction of 10 miles per hour has been imposed on the UP Line of the bridge. Remedial measures are being taken to repair so as to enable the temporary speed restriction to be removed. The bridge is safe for traffic.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know when this bridge was built and when, the defect was seen?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The bridge was built in 1935 and the cracks were noticed in September 1963, and work is going on in repairing them.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: By what time the repairing work will be completed?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I cannot tell definitely but the work is going on on a programme basis.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether the Minister had seen a report in the press that this crack is due to defective construction?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The report, might be so. A note before me put up by the engineers is this, what I have said.

BAN ON GUR MOVEMENT

*217. SHRI ' BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received by Government from the gur traders and manufacturers regarding inter-State ban on gur movement; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the representation and what action Government propose to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In these representations, requests have been made to remove the ban. The Government have decided not to relax the restrictions imposed on movement.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: May I know whether, besides the manu-

facturers and traders, any State Government has represented to the Government of India that this inter-State ban should be removed in the light of the shortages experienced by them and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government to it?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Some State Governments have also made representations, but we have told them firmly that it is not possible to remove the ban at all.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: In the light of the stand taken by the Government of India, what steps has Government taken to see that the short-fall in gur in those particular States is removed?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: That has also been taken care of. In fact a majority of the consumers are in the producing States. With regard to the deficit States, they are also taken care of. For example, in Gujarat, we have given them a quota of 30,000 tons for February, whereas the normal import to that State by rail and other was 27,562 tons. So each State is given on the basis of movement by rail and water and some increase is being made in lieu of road transport also.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: May I know whether this quota which has been increased will satisfy the need of the State of Gujarat or have they represented to the Government that it is not enough?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In fact, the position in Gujarat is now more or less satisfactory. They have a quota of 21,000 tons of sugar. That would be 1 kilo *per capita* even including children. They would have all the sugar they want and surplus of it. It is not possible for them to have all the sugar and all the gur they want. So some restrictions would have to be imposed.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know if this ban is not a great hard-