

the *Ngashi* and the *Prajatantra* of Imphal and also in the *Amar Ujala*, Agra; the *Leader*, Allahabad; the *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi; the *Amrit Bazar Patrika*, Calcutta; the *Statesman*, Calcutta and the *Assam Tribune*, Gauhati and Shillong. Information about the dates on which the notice appeared in these newspapers is being ascertained from the Administration and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha when received.

BRIDGE ON THE NARMADA RIVER

*208. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders were invited for the construction of a bridge on the Narmada river at Barman in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the names of the companies who gave the tenders and whether any tender has been accepted or not; and

(c) when the bridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the first call no tenders were received. Second time when the tenders were invited, the following three firms submitted tenders:—

(i) Messrs. Hazrat & Co., Bombay—Rs. 15,58,000.

(ii) Lala Ram Nath, Lucknow—Rs. 13,89,000.

(iii) Lala Umrao Singh, Morakka—Rs. 14,49,000.

As these tenders were considered high, they were rejected.

Quotations were then called from seven bridge contractors of repute. Only M/S Gammon India (Private) Ltd., Bombay submitted a quotation

of Rs. 11.25 lakhs. This is under consideration.

(c) About 2 years.

WOODEN SLEEPERS FOR THE INDIAN RAILWAYS

*209. DR. P. J. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wooden sleepers for the Indian Railways had been purchased from the Kallai timber market near Kozhikode, Kerala; if so, what was the extent of such purchases in the year 1956-57; and

(b) whether wooden sleepers have recently been imported from Australia?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY):

(a) Yes, Sir; the number of Track sleepers purchased from the Kallai timber market during 1956-57 was 1,15,600.

(b) As a result of global tenders invited in late 1957, orders were placed in April-May 1958. Since then no fresh orders have been placed.

BRIDGES ON THE JOWAI-BADARPUR ROAD

*210. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 17 in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1958 and state the present stage of the construction work on the two major bridges on the two rivers on the Jowai-Badarpur road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Five major bridges across the rivers Dona, Baleshwar, Gumra, Apha and Lubha on the Jowai-Badarpur Road have to be constructed. Tender for constructing the Baleshwar Bridge has already been accepted, while the question of awarding tenders for the