

KASARAGOD PORT

*315. SHRI A. V. KUNHAMBU: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Kasaragod Port has been included in the Minor Port Development Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): No, Sir.

SHRI A. V. KUNHAMBU: May I know in view of the fact that a lot of merchandise of the value of more than Rs. 8 crores are exported from Kasaragod, whether Government would consider the question of declaring the Kasaragod Port as a minor port?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: No.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether the Kerala Government has made any representation to the Planning Commission to improve this port in view of the fact that a lot of merchandise in going out from this port and it is absolutely necessary to develop this port?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: They might have addressed the Planning Commission. The Transport Ministry has not received any representation.

DISLOCATION OF TRAIN SERVICES DUE TO BREACHES OF RAILWAY LINES DURING THE RECENT FLOODS

*316. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the floods of 1957 there was dislocation of train services due to breaches on different railway lines;

(b) if so, where such breaches occurred, specially on the North-Eastern Railway, what was the number of days for which train services were dislocated in each case and how many bridges were affected; and

(c) whether the breaches of bridges were not detected on the general checking up of all bridges?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the information available is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix XIX, Annexure No. 36.]

(c) Soundness of bridge structures is carefully examined during bridge inspection. Breaches occur due to the incidence of abnormal conditions and cannot be foreseen.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether these defects that occurred during the floods were not detected beforehand when the general check-up was made?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The breaches occurred as a result of floods. How can we anticipate that? No inspection would reveal that breaches are going to take place at any particular place. Because it depends on the intensity of the flood at the time.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether any enquiry was held as to how the breaches occurred and whether any real defect in the construction of bridges was found out?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Breaches are quite a separate thing from maintenance of bridges. Normally, the bridges don't have breaches. Breaches occur on railway lines not on bridges. The bridges are inspected very frequently by Railway Inspectors and Engineers and as the hon. Member is probably aware, we have posted an Engineer-in-Chief particularly on this N. E. Railway to inspect all bridges on the link section very thoroughly and where waterways are not sufficient, he has been asked to widen them. That work is going well ahead.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether the recommendations of the Mehboobnagar Accident Enquiry Committee regarding the pre-