

which were the States most affected by this disease; and

(b) to what extent the cholera vaccine inoculation proved to be a preventive during this epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Cholera broke out in an epidemic form in some parts of India during April, May and June 1957. The States most affected were Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Bihar, Madras and West Bengal.

(b) Anti-cholera inoculation has proved effective as a preventive measure against the disease.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: What was the number of deaths on that account?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Unhappily for me I have not got that figure.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: How many emergency hospitals were opened, if any?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The deaths in June, I find, were 1,286. As regards emergency hospitals, it is better to ask the State Governments. We do not have all the information as to what happens in the States.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इन्फ़ेक्शन पड़ेने हुआ या कालरा पड़ेने हुआ ?

(No reply.)

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE AND A WORKSHOP IN THE NEW RAILWAY ZONE FOR ASSAM

*286. **SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to construct a bridge over the river

Brahmaputra in the proposed new Railway Zone for Assam during the current year;

(b) if so, whether the survey of the bridge has since been undertaken;

(c) whether Government propose to have a workshop within this Zone and if so, where it will be situated; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide for a double line and also an alternative line between Amin-gaon and Siliguri?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) No definite proposal, Sir; a small sum has, however, been provided in the Railway Plan to make a beginning with this bridge in the Second Five Year Plan.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Considerable expansion of workshop capacity would be necessary in the new Zone. It has, however, not yet been decided if this would be in the form of a new workshop or substantial expansions to the existing repair units in the Assam Region.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Have the Government drawn up any scheme for taking up certain works during the Second Plan within this zone?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: We have already drawn up certain plans for the area which will fall within this zone. As the hon. Member knows that zone has not come into existence yet.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: May I know, Sir, what works are going to be undertaken during this Plan?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is a very big question. There are hundreds of major and minor works.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: May I know, Sir, where this bridge is proposed to be built?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: We have in view two alternative sites. One is between Pandu and Amingaon; and the other site is at Jogi Ghopa.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, whether any previous survey was taken for construction of a bridge over the Brahmaputra before this?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The surveys were carried out on this bridge near Pandu in 1910, 1937. And in 1943 the work on the construction of this bridge was actually started, but then it was suspended in 1944.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, whether that survey is helpful to this work now?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Certainly, all previous surveys, if we have the records of them, would be helpful.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What would be the length of this bridge?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The length would be 4,200 ft.

SHRI S. C. DEB: In answer to (d) may I know, Sir, whether the Assam Link Stabilisation Committee has made some recommendations about the alternative route, whether Government is considering that and whether Government is prepared to have a programme for that alternative route?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, the Assam Link Stabilisation Committee did recommend the construction of an alternative route from Belakoba to Alipore-Duar. The matter is under the consideration of the Railway Ministry.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Have they made an estimate of the cost?

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Is it a fact that Jogi Ghopa has at present no railway connection and if so, then why is the Railway Ministry thinking of putting up a bridge here and not at Amingaon?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: As I said, we have two alternative sites. This is one and the other is at Pandu.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: My question was: Is it a fact that Jogi Ghopa site has no railway connection at present and if this is so, then why is the Railway thinking of putting up a bridge on that side and of constructing a railway line there also instead of putting up the bridge at Amingaon?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: If we put up a bridge, we will lay down a railway line too.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: What is the estimate for this project?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The same question.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is too early to say.

KOPILLI DAM PROJECT

*287. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the discharge and silt observations conducted near the Dam site of the Kopilli Dam Project in Assam;

(b) whether the project for the dykes and the construction of the dam have been completed; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, the time by when Government propose to (i) take up the construction work and (ii) complete it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) The discharge and silt observations were started at Garm-