

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The Khawda and Bella connection was examined but it was either not found to be practicable or remunerative.

SHRI LAVJI LAKHAMSHI: Is it not a fact that constantly this area is the victim of raids and dacoities from Pakistan?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: For that purpose there are ample arrangements for communication.

CONVERSION OF KANDLA-BHUJ NARROW GAUGE LINE INTO METRE GAUGE LINE

*505. SHRI LAVJI LAKHAMSHI: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of converting the narrow gauge railway line between Kandla and Bhuj into metre gauge has commenced; and

(b) if so, how long it will take to complete the work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is expected to be completed during 1955-56.

SHRI LAVJI LAKHAMSHI: Is it in progress or not?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, the work has been sanctioned and it is being proceeded with.

SHRI LAVJI LAKHAMSHI: How far has the line been completed?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, I would require notice.

STATION BUILDING AT BHUJ

*506. SHRI LAVJI LAKHAMSHI: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a building for the railway station at Bhuj; and

(b) if so, when the construction is to be started?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI LAVJI LAKHAMSHI: Was there any party sent to select a site for building the railway station or not at Bhuj?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I am not aware; but the Railway is at liberty to take it up, if they want, out of their amenities programme funds. They can do it in their scheme for amenities programme.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Has the Bhuj railway station no building there already?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think it is there.

(Postponed from the 20th September 1954)

MOBILE LABORATORY TO STUDY THE FERTILITY OF SOIL

*421. SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any mobile laboratory has been established to study the fertility of soil in the River Valley Project areas;

(b) if so, what are the functions of this laboratory; and

(c) what progress in its work has so far been made by this laboratory?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: Will it be established in the near future?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir, there is a proposal—and there is a provision in the agreement—and it will probably be established soon.