

KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS: If it is, what steps is Government going to take to prevent it?

SHRI ABID ALI: About this particular question I have already explained that we are considering the installation of this X-ray machine there, so far as we are concerned. Otherwise, it is a larger question.

*430. [The questioner (Shri B. V. Kakkilaya) was absent. For answer, vide column 3176 infra.]

LABOUR REQUIREMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MOKAMEH BRIDGE

*431. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many labour man-days will be required for the construction of the bridge over the Ganges at Mokameh-ghat;

(b) what will be the approximate wage-bill for the labour to be employed for the completion of the bridge; and

(c) whether the employment of labour will be larger in the case of departmental construction of the bridge than in the case of construction through contractors?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). After the designs are finalised, a detailed estimate will be prepared and tenders called for the execution of the work. It is not possible to furnish the required information with any degree of accuracy as many variable factors are involved and the work will be undertaken by contractors with their own methods.

(c) It is not possible to say as much depends on the mechanical equipment used to ensure that each phase is finished in time.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: In view of the lack of knowledge on the part of the Ministry, it is very difficult to put any supplementary questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No comments, please. Come to your supplementary question.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know approximately by how much the cost of living is likely to rise due to payment to the labour employed on this construction, at the present wage rates?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That I shall not be able to say, except in a general way. Certainly it will provide employment to those who are around the area. I cannot calculate it and give the exact answer.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: To enable a larger number to be employed at a cheaper cost on the construction, will labour for the construction of the bridge be engaged at slightly less than the usual wage rate?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not know wherefrom the hon. Member infers all these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: "If labour is in plenty, will you employ them on lower rates?" he asks.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is all hypothetical, Sir.

MIXING OF BASTARD SAGOPALM NUTS WITH ARECANUTS

*432. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'bastard sagopalm nuts' are freely mixed with pure arecanuts; and

(b) if so, to what extent it is being so mixed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) Yes.

(b) About 10 to 50 per cent.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Are Government aware of the fact that these nuts are injurious to health?