

crossing in a particular area, he need only write to the Divisional Superintendent of the area and deposit Rs. 2,000 for having the estimated and the plans made ready. Thereafter the Divisional Superintendent or the Engineer concerned would forward the estimates and plans to the administration and the administration will, in its turn, correspond with the Secretary of the Public Works Department of the State concerned. And, if they accept the liability, the matter will be proceeded with immediately.

Shri Heda: Where the trains pass through the towns, what is the arrangement for the overbridge for the passengers?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: That also has been laid down. The liability of the railways is only over the railway property. The task is laid upon either the Ministry of Transport and Communications if it is a National Highway or the State Government if it is a State Highway, to build up the approach roads. Linking up the approach roads by a bridge over the railway track is the duty of the railways.

Shri Heda: I am not referring to the vehicular overbridge; I was talking of the overbridge for the passengers.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The passenger foot-overbridge is the liability of the railways.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : यह जो आये दिन लेवल क्रॉसिंग पर दृर्घटनाएं होती रहती हैं तो क्या रेल मंत्रालय अपना यह कर्तव्य नहीं समझता कि राज्य सरकारों को लिख कि इस तरह की व्यवस्था वहां पर कराई जाय ?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether it is not advisable to write to the State Governments that they should make arrangements for these approach roads?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We have written to them.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether the Railway Ministry have intimated the Transport and Communications Ministry, as far as the construction of overbridges on the National Highways is concerned and that Ministry's aid is also sought in this matter?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: In fact, the circular is issued by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, who have the responsibility of the National Highways.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether it is a fact that in many cases, in spite of the request made by the people of the locality for railway crossing, it has not been attended to, even though, as already stated by the hon. Minister, it is the responsibility of the railway authorities, so far as foot overbridges are concerned?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Foot overbridges in the railway premises will be put up as and when necessary, if it is felt that the request of the public is reasonable. As regards overbridges outside, I have already stated the position.

Cauvery Water to Madras City

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*1052. { **Dr. P. Srinivasan:**
Shri Paramasivan:
Shri Rajaram:
Shri Manoharan:
Shri Dharmalingam:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration before Government to take Cauvery waters to Madras city to meet the acute shortage of drinking water supply there;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the scheme and when it is going to be implemented;

(c) whether there are any other proposals besides the above under consideration; and

(d) if so, their nature, scope and extent?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a) to (d). The information is being collected from the State Government and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha when received.

Dr. P. Srinivasan: Has the Madras Government sent any proposals regarding this scheme?

Mr. Speaker: The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House. Next question.

Drinking Water Supply in Rural Areas

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*1053. { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
 { **Shri Jashvant Mehta:**

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in India where there are no facilities for drinking water;

(b) the number of villages in different States where people are suffering due to water not being potable;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to solve this problem during the Third Five Year Plan period; and

(d) whether Government propose to give top priority to this problem?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a) and (b). Complete information in the matter is not available as no assessment of the rural water supply position in the entire country has so far been made.

(c) and (d). Very high priority has been given to the rural water supply problem during the Third Plan. Provision for this purpose has been made under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, the Local Development Works Programme, the Community Development Programme and the Programme for the Welfare of

Depressed Classes. The total expenditure for rural water supplies during the Third Plan is likely to be of the order of Rs. 100 crores, including the contribution from the State and the villagers.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The hon. Deputy Minister says that full information is not available in respect of parts (a) and (b). But what is the information available with them? Have not at least some States made them available the information?

Dr. D. S. Raju: Yes, Sir. We have got information from four States, viz., Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. There are four schemes under operation. Under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, it is estimated that 15,000 villages and 14 million people would be benefited. In the Second scheme, under the Community Development Works Programme, about 5 lakh wells have been renovated or dug. In the Third scheme of Local Development Works, about 1,32,000 wells have been dug or renovated. Under the Programme for the Welfare of Backward Classes, 20,000 wells have been dug or renovated.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether we can take it that at least in those villages where there is absolutely no water supply at present and where the villagers are prepared to come forward with their own contribution, the hon. Minister is in a position to give an assurance that at least for lack of funds the water supply schemes of those villages will not be permitted to suffer and that they will be taken up?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): The hon. Member may rest assured that, as the Deputy Minister stated, rural water supply has the highest priority and there are no schemes that have been received so far by this Ministry and considered feasible by the technical people that have been refused.