

be entirely financed by the Government of India?

**Shri Hathi:** That will depend, after the project report is ready

#### Water-Logging due to Railway Lines

\*2004. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints from Punjab that there has been water-logging and floods at places due to railway lines which provide no outlet for water;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints; and

(c) what steps are being taken to provide the openings in such railway lines?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Seven complaints have so far been received.

(c) The Railways are taking suitable action in consultation with the State Government to provide additional waterways or extend existing ones as and where necessary

On the Northern Railway 26 additional waterways have been provided across the Railway line and four existing ones have been extended since 1955

A Committee has also been formed under the chairmanship of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to consider the problems arising out of the extraordinary flooding of the Gurgaon and Mathura Districts during the 1958 monsoons. The Committee is yet to finalise its proposals to prevent such flooding.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** May I know whether Government will consider the question of paying compensation to those who have suffered because of the lack of waterways on the railway lines?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Government are not liable.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** The damage is due to lack of waterways on the railway lines

**Mr. Speaker:** If water stagnates, Government are not liable.

**Shri P. C. Bose:** May I know whether similar water-logging conditions exist all along the railway lines....

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** It is due to lack of waterways.

**Mr. Speaker:** He has said that Government are not liable.

**Shri P. C. Bose:** . . in UP, Bihar and West Bengal?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** There may be cases. A separate question might be tabled. I cannot answer that off-hand

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** May I know whether any target date has been fixed by which these constructions would be completed?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** As I said, a committee has been set up; the report has not yet been finalised

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** May I know whether the committee has been advised to submit its report before the next monsoon sets in?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** No such directive has been given, but I take it that they will expedite it and submit it as quickly as possible

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** May I know whether any assessment has been made regarding the water-logged areas due to railway lines.....

**Mr. Speaker:** In the whole of India?

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** No; in the Punjab. The question relates to Punjab.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** The committee is going into that question.