

Raniganj to Bankura via mejia and a rail-cum-road bridge over the river Damodar; and

(d) if so, when the construction work is expected to start?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d). Based on the survey report submitted to the Government of West Bengal in December 1977 as a deposit work and the observations made by the Union Ministry of Energy (Department of Coal), South Eastern Railway has already been asked to make a quick re-appraisal of the earlier survey and submit the report. A decision will be taken on receipt of the reappraisal report and its evaluation.

#### **Inquiry into Recent Spate of Railway Accidents**

1600. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any detailed inquiry into the recent spate of railway accidents in which large number of persons were killed/seriously injured to identify the major reasons for these accidents; and

(b) if so, the result thereof and the action contemplated by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Inquiries are held into all accidents whether they involve casualties or not. It is a statutory obligation on the Commissioners of Railway Safety who function under the administrative control of Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation to inquire into all accidents to passenger carrying trains which involve death or grievous injuries to any passenger. An analysis of the recent accidents indicates that failure of railway staff is the largest single factor responsible for accidents.

(b) To counteract human failures, safety organisations on the railways have been engaged in a relentless campaign to create greater safety consciousness amongst the staff connected with running of trains and to ensure that staff do not violate rules or indulge in short-cut methods that may lead to accidents.

Examination of trains and spot checks in carriage and wagon depots have been intensified and greater care is being paid to the proper maintenance of track. In order to reduce dependence on the human element, sophisticated aids like ultrasonic flaw detectors for wheels, axles and rails, axle counters, track circuiting etc. are being introduced progressively.

12.00 hrs.

#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

*Annual Accounts of Bombay Port Trust for 1979-80, Kandla Port-Trust for 1979-80, Madras-Port Trust for 1979-80, Visakhapatnam Port Trust for 1979-80, Review on and Annual Report of Dredging Corporation of India, Visakhapatnam for 1979-80 and Annual Report on the Working of Seamen's Provident Fund Scheme, 1966.*

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): I beg to lay on the Table;—

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(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—

(i) Annual Accounts of the Bombay Port Trust for the year 1979-80 and the Audit Report thereon [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1937/81].

(ii) Annual Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust for the year 1979-80 and the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1938/81].

(iii) Annual Accounts of the Madras Port Trust for the year 1979-80 and the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1939/81]