

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH):** (a) Yes.

(b) The quarters referred to in the representation numbering 140 were constructed during various years from 1924 to 1941.

(c) The increase in rent was due to increase in the covered area of the quarters as a result of improvements made in 1972 by providing a covered verandah.

#### **Krishna Bridge**

**86. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the railway job for chipping and painting for Krishna Bridge has been transferred to contract labour; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any action in the matter?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH):** (a) and (b). Painting work in girder bridges is a seasonal work and no such painting work can be carried out during monsoons or bad weather. In the past when such seasonal departmental labour was discharged for want of work, there had been labour agitations. As such for painting work, the work had to be entrusted to contractors. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 does not specifically prohibit engagement of contract labour in seasonal type of work of chipping and painting of steel work in girder bridges.

A representation received from the honourable Member on the subject was replied to accordingly.

#### **Selling of Methyl-Dopa by IDPL**

**87. SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FER-

TILIZERS be pleased to state whether IDPL is selling Methyl Dopa at a price cheaper than that of the foreign company which was once the sole producer of this drug?

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** IDPL is selling Methyl Dopa tabs. in 250 mg. strength only at present. The BICP have worked out a price of Rs. 61.33 per 100 tablet in this strength for IDPL but they have voluntarily reduced the price and are selling at Rs. 53 per 100 tab. as against the price of Rs. 53.67 per 100 tablet of 250 mg. strength of M/s. Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd. who were the sole producers of these tablets earlier.

#### **Credit for Fertiliser Production by I. D. A.**

**88. SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IDA has agreed to provide 105 million dollar credit for fertiliser production;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether fuller utilisation of capacity of existing plants is being sought with that money?

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. This credit assistance is proposed to be utilised mainly for improving the operations of the existing fertilizer units, both in the public and private sectors. Apart from the balancing equipments required for improved operations of fertilizer plants, the credit would be available for—

(i) development of associated facilities to ensure reliability of captive power generation equipment, and

(ii) schemes designed for better production control like reco-