

Information regarding the other States which might be proposing to introduce free education at the high/higher secondary stage is not available.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN DELHI

4039. SHRI HIMATSINGHA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether, with a view to promoting the various Indian languages, Government propose to set up or to promote setting up of public schools in Delhi and other union Territories with regional languages as their medium of instruction in place of English;

(b) is so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to convert the existing Public Schools in Delhi and other Union Territories into regional languages public schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal in so far as the public schools which are members of the Indian Public Schools Conference are concerned.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Education Ministry.

BRIDGE AT KOLAGHAT AT NATIONAL HIGHWAY No. 6

4040. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of the Kolaghat Road Bridge over the river Rupnarain on National Highway No. 6 has been completed according to estimates, designs and time;

(b) if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the flow of the Rupnarain river has been retarded and silting in the downstream has considerably increased;

(d) whether any model experiments were conducted in the matter; and

(e) if so, by whom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The bridge has been completed with an excess over the original estimate, some changes in the original design and an increase in the time of construction, as explained below :—

(1) There is an excess of Rs. 24 lakhs over the originally sanctioned estimate of Rs. 112.22 lakhs due to the following reasons :—

(i) The accepted tender was higher than the sanctioned estimate.

(ii) The cost of procurement of cement and steel was higher than the issue rates of these materials provided in the contract.

(iii) Some additional items of work were actually carried out at site, which were not originally provided for in the estimate.

(2) A slight rearrangement of the span lengths of 4 out of 14 main spans and an increase in the thickness of well steining was found necessary on account of very hard clayey strata met with during sinking. The flanges of the beams were also slightly widened to facilitate launching.

(3) There has been some delay in the completion of the bridge on account of unavoidable difficulties during sinking of wells through very hard clayey strata, acute labour trouble, and unforeseen difficulties during launching of beams.

(c) The flow of the Rupnarain river has not been retarded by the construction of this road-bridge. Silting up of the river had been continuing long before the construction of the bridge, which does not appear to have had any adverse effect either on the flow of the river or the silting of the bed down-stream.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. These were not considered necessary, but the Director, Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona, was consulted, who stated that the waterway of the road bridge, as proposed, was satisfactory, being slightly more than the waterway of the existing Railway bridge downstream.

PAY SCALES OF ORISSA TEACHERS

4041. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOEL : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state: