

(b) The matter is under discussions among the State Governments concerned.

Late running of Kerala bound long distance express trains from Delhi

*441. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the long distance express trains going to Kerala from Delhi are usually running many hours late ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether his Ministry has launched any special drive to avoid the late running of trains particularly on long routes ; and

(d) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Punctuality of these trains is being monitored at the Zonal and Divisional level. Two trains—Kerala Express and Himsagar Express—are being monitored by the Railway Board as well, and instructions have been given to improve the punctuality performance of these trains further.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of bridge into Rail-cum-Road bridge on Saryu River

*442. SHRI JITENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bridge on Saryu river near Manjhi Railway Station (North Eastern Railway) which connects Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and on which a lot of economic development of Western Bihar

and Eastern Uttar Pradesh depends, is available only for rail traffic ;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to convert this bridge into a rail-cum-road bridge ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Railways have not received any such proposal from Uttar Pradesh Government who will have to bear the cost, if found technically feasible.

[*English*]

Panar River Scheme

*443. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on Panar River Scheme has since been completed ; and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). No scheme on Panar River, as such, has been received from the Government of Bihar. However, a scheme known as "Parman Flood Control Scheme" is under consideration of the State Government. Panar river is a tributary of this river system.

Geothermal resources

*444. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State-wise geothermal resources data have been collected ;