

(b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member seeks to have the information about urban link roads on National Highways in Tamil Nadu. The position is that the scheme of Central financial assistance for the maintenance and development of such links envisages that within large towns having a population of 20,000 or more, the Central Government pays for maintenance at the rate of Rs. 5,000/- per mile per year or the actual expenditure incurred, whichever is less, as also for the development of such suitable permanent links provided an agreement for this purpose is entered into by the State Government and the Government of India. Although the Government of Tamil Nadu have accepted the scheme, certain information is still awaited from that Government for finalising the matter and for execution of the agreement.

Financial Aid to Netaji Museum, Calcutta

*1182. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government promised to help Netaji Museum housed in the ancestral building of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Calcutta by extending financial aid ;

(b) whether despite the plan submitted by Netaji Research Bureau for the purpose, no financial aid has been given as yet ;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay ; and

(d) whether Government will take steps to expedite the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). No financial aid could be actually sanctioned in view of the fact that the Government of West Bengal had forwarded only a recommendation in general terms. The Government of West Bengal were therefore asked to communicate their specific recommendations on items on which assistance would be admissible. A reply has been received only on 12.7.1971. This is now under consideration.

Development of Indian Circus

*1185. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the programmes for the development of Indian Circus ;

(b) how many persons are estimated to be eking out their livelihood by performing in Circus ; and

(c) whether Government are aware that all State Governments levy entertainment tax on Circus ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) Government have no specific programme for the development of Indian circus. They have, however, been encouraging circus by recommending grant of railway concession for troupe and luggage movement, provision of land for circus shows free or at concessional rate, help in the maintenance of law and order, grant of Foreign Exchange for visits abroad etc. Firm proposals from the Indian Circus Federation will be sympathetically considered if and when received with supporting data.

(b) According to a survey conducted by the labour Bureau, Simla in 1968, there were 5,334 persons employed in 30 of the 53 circus companies known to be in existence. The Indian Circus Federation has recently estimated that approximately 10,000 persons are employed in 200 circuses in the country.

(c) According to available information, 6 States and 1 Union Territory are not levying any entertainment tax on circus shows 8 States and 1 Union Territory are allowing partial concession in this regard.

Inter-State Cultural Exchange Scheme

*1186. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the continuation of the Inter-State Cultural Exchange Scheme ;

(b) if so, the names of States exchanging Cultural troupes this year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) : (a) to (c). The scheme was discontinued from 1-4-69, in the overall interest of economy. There is no proposal at present for reviving the scheme.

Steamer Service between Cochin and Bombay

*1187. SHRI B. V. NAIK : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the alternative arrangements that have been made for the transport of passengers stranded by the cessation of coastal steamer service between Cochin and Bombay ;

(b) whether during May and June 1971, passengers travelling to Bombay on the West Coast were put to hardship because of cessation of sea transport ; and

(c) whether Government would permit a sea taxi service in this area to facilitate the common man to travel ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) No shipping company is willing to restart the passenger-cum-cargo service between Bombay and Cochin which closed down in June 1969, for lack of adequate cargo and passengers, among other reasons. It is also reported that there has been no stranding of passengers due to discontinuance of the service and alternative forms of transport are available.

(b) No Sir, Even when the service was in operation, it was the practice to suspend it from middle of May to middle of September on account of monsoon.

(c) No proposal has been received by Government for operating a sea-taxi service in the area, and the question of granting permission does not hence arise.

Formation of a Company for the Execution of Shipyard Project at Cochin

*1188. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the formation of a Company for the execution of the proposed Shipyard project at Cochin has not yet been done ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same ; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) to (c). Necessary action for the formation of a Company for the execution of the Cochin Shipyard Project has already been taken, and it is expected to be completed shortly.

Taking over of O.C.M. (India) Pvt. Ltd.

*1189. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 619 on the 28th May, 1971 and state :

(a) whether the 31 parties to whom 25,000 shares of O.C.M. (India) Private Ltd. are proposed to be sold include, besides Shree Digvijay Woollen Mills Ltd., several subsidiary and selling agency firms owned or controlled by the Birla Group ;

(b) whether O.C.M. is supplying blankets, battle-dresses, etc. for our Defence Force ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take over the company, instead of allowing it to pass from a foreign owner to the Birlas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last 4 years only two orders for supplies worth Rs. 10.6 lakhs were placed with the company.

(c) Does not arise in view of the fact that the proposed sale has been disallowed by