

ration namely India Tourism Corporation is likely to be set up shortly.

(c) These Corporations would remove certain deterrents to tourist traffic and would, therefore, help to step up tourist traffic to India. It is, however, not possible to state exactly the extent to which this benefit would accrue.

Haldia Port

- *204. { Shri Prabhat Kar:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri J. B. Singh:
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri D. D. Puri:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in developing Haldia as a subsidiary port of Calcutta; and

(b) the total expenditure so far incurred by the Centre in this regard?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A master plan for the development of a new Dock system at Haldia has been prepared in consultation with the Calcutta Port Commissioners' Consulting Engineers and experts from the Port of London Authority. The Plan has been approved in principle by the World Bank. Certain hydraulic studies relating to the project were undertaken by the Hydraulic Study Department of the Commissioners. The World Bank are satisfied with the studies made and have expressed the opinion that commencement of the construction work need not be delayed for any further study. At the request of the Commissioners, the Government of West Bengal instituted proceedings for the acquisition of 9.373 sq. miles of land at Haldia in stages. So far, 4.6 sq. miles of land have been acquired, but the possession of the homestead pockets in this area has yet to be taken. Considerable progress has also been

made on the detailed planning of the various facilities to be provided.

The land required for the rail link has been acquired by the Government of West Bengal and handed over to the South Eastern Railway. The existing road between Panchkura and Haldia, which has to be used for transport of construction material, is being widened and strengthened by the Government of West Bengal. To relieve the congestion of traffic in this area, the West Bengal Government have taken in hand the construction of the Tamluk Road. The preliminary works of the National highway to be connected to Haldia and National highway No. 6 have also been taken in hand by the West Bengal Government. To meet the energy requirements of the new Dock system and the industries to be sited in the vicinity, the West Bengal Government have made necessary arrangements for extending the power grid from Kolaghat to Haldia. Water supply arrangements are also being planned.

Tender documents for major engineering works are under preparation and are expected to be completed soon.

(b) The total expenditure incurred by the Calcutta Port Commissioners up to the 31st January, 1965 amounted to Rs. 167.5 lakhs.

Price of Rice

- *205. { Shri R. G. Dubey:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to raise the price of rice sold at fair-price shops; and

(b) if so, the increase per quintal and the date from which it is effective?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issue prices of rice were raised by Rs. 9.13 to Rs. 26.42 per