

some of the world famous relics has not been taken in the Central Project but has been left over to the State? May I also know whether Kovalam in Kerala which could be developed as a world swimming spot will be completed in the Fourth Five Year Plan period?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: So far as Nagarjunasagar and other areas round about Hyderabad are concerned, they come under Scheme No. 2. Of course, it is quite important. But at the moment, it is under Part 2 of the Scheme. So far as Kovalam is concerned, we have already taken action. We have acquired the palace, the hotel is there and the beach-line is being improved. Then, we are acquiring some more area to make it more pleasant. The road is also being laid and the drainage and water facilities are being attended to this year. We have already provided Rs. 10 lakhs for this particular work in Kovalam. Apart from taking over the palace and improving the place, we are constructing a canteen also there.

Shri R. Barua: The Kanjivanga sanctuary is an important one. But in recent years, it is seriously threatened by erosion of the Brahamputra. The investment will be much bigger than what is planned. May I know whether the Government will take particular interest to protect it from the danger of erosion of the Brahamputra?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Yes, Sir, We are aware of it and we will pay special attention to that.

Shri Rameshwar Tantis: What was the total number of tourists last year and may I know whether our income was on the declining side or on the increase as compared to the year before?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Last Year's overall tourist traffic did decline by 5 per cent. I have given the reasons why it happened so. Now it is picking up. So far as the foreign exchange earnings are concerned, I would like to look into the matter. I cannot say

precisely by how much our foreign exchange earnings went down.

Shri Priya Gupta: May I know if the name of Bikaner in Rajasthan has got a place in this list and, if not, is it because the Chief Minister over there is not taking a sympathetic view of the area because most of the legislators are from the non-Congress side? Even when the foreign tourists come upto Sikar, a place very near it, they are stopped by Government officials and they are told not to go to Bikaner because there is no hotel or restaurant there to get even food. Not only that, posters and other things for promoting tourism cannot be pasted there as there is no provision for places and employees for the purpose for want of funds and they are sold to *bidiwalas* and *panwalas*. May I know the attitude of the Government towards this?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: The questions relates to a particular attitude of the Government of Rajasthan. I do not admit that such a thing would have happened. Anyhow, I would like to collect the information for the benefit of the hon. Member.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: There is the famous Salarjung Museum in Hyderabad and it is contemplated to construct a new building. When will it be ready.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Hyderabad, Nagarjunasagar and Visakhapatnam are the places which have been selected in Andhra Pradesh for the development of tourism and Salarjung Museum in Hyderabad is also included in that.

National Highways

*1461. **Shri Linga Reddy:** Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of the National Highways in the Country with its State-wise break-up;

(b) the reasons for the disparities among the States;

(c) the steps taken to remove the imbalance amongst the States; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent on the National Highways in the Fourth Five Year Plan?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6202/66].

(b) and (c). National Highways are decided upon on All India basis and not on regional or local considerations. The question of removing imbalances or disparities in the length of National Highways in individual State does not therefore arise.

(d) About Rs. 230 crores. The provisions for the Fourth Five Year Plan have, however, not yet been finalised.

Shri Linga Reddy: May I know whether there is a representation by the State Government of Mysore that the road between Bangalore and Mangalore via Mercara, from where the hon. Minister comes, be converted into a National Highway as it connects two State capitals, Madras and Bangalore, and two coasts, the east and the west?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: There is already a double carriageway road between Bangalore and Mangalore; so, that would satisfy the requirement of connecting the port of Madras to the proposed east coast port of Mangalore. That facility is already existing there. As for the other proposition, namely, the road from Bangalore via Coorg, that matter is under examination. I do not think there is any possibility of including that road in the near future as a National Highway.

Shri Linga Reddy: Though the West Coast Road has been executed and is maintained by the Central Government, why is it not made a National Highway though it connects two National Highways, one in Maharashtra and another in Kerala?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: This road is of special importance between two or

three States all along the west coast. It has not yet been brought under the National Highways scheme, but the entire expenditure is met by Government. There are similar schemes in other States also. The matter of including that specifically in National Highways and of accepting the commitment for its maintenance is under consideration.

Shri Basumatari: In view of the threat from Pakistan as well as China, what is the reason that the road from Gauhati to Upper Assam, up to Digboi, has not been taken up as a National Highway?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: That particular stretch of road is under consideration. We have not yet come to a decision.

Shri Thimmaiah: Is Government aware that some of the highways are not worth the name for want of maintenance? What steps have been taken for their proper maintenance?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: I would not accept this allegation as such, but I should admit that there are about 300 miles of missing links in the system of our National Highways which are about 15,000 miles in total length. There are a few missing links that are now being connected. A few bridges are yet to be constructed. Out of 215 major bridges which happen to come under the National Highways system only about 30 remain to be constructed and here in these stretches there may be that difficulty to which my hon. friend has referred.

श्री हुकम चन्ध कच्छवाय : मध्य प्रदेश का इस देश में प्रमुख म्यान है। लेकिन मध्य प्रदेश के अन्दर बहुत ही कम राजपथ हैं। क्या सरकार अविव्य में सभी दृष्टियों से मध्य प्रदेश को लाभ देने के लिए वहाँ ज्यादा से ज्यादा राजपथों का निर्माण करने की योजना रखती है ?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: It is not worked out on a *pro rata* basis between State and State, but even then for the information of my hon. friend I would say that Madhya Pradesh has the longest stretch of National Highways as compared with other States; it is 1,869 miles, the longest stretch as compared with other States.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the hon. Minister has ever got the information about the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh that at several places the condition of the road has deteriorated very much and that the line of shady trees which used to be a very good feature of these National Highways is decreasing gradually? What steps are being taken to protect those and replant the shady trees which used to be on both sides of the National Highways specially in Uttar Pradesh?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: I must admit in some stretches of National Highways we had to remove the old avenue trees in the process of broadening them, broadening the culverts and making all the National Highways according to the stipulated specification and standard. We are also trying to plant trees on both the sides. It will take some time. It is all a question of time. As far as the proper surfacing upto the National Highways specification and standard is concerned, I think, we have almost completed the programme except for the remaining 3000 miles which remains to be done in various sectors.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Inter-District Movement of Foodgrains

*1458. **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have persuaded the States to stop the practice of banning inter-district movement of foodgrains;

(b) whether the Chief Ministers' Conference accepted the idea of withdrawing all bans on the inter-district movement; and

(c) how far the assurance of large-scale supplies of P.L. 480 wheat from U.S.A. has helped the States to allow free movement of indigenous produce within each State Zone?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Restrictions on inter-district movement of foodgrains have been imposed mainly in the interests of procurement of rice and paddy in most of the States. Large scale supplies of P.L. 480 wheat have been of considerable help in improving the supply position but they have not obviated the need for indigenous procurement. Consequently, these supplies have not helped in restoring free movement of foodgrains within each State.

Survey of Areas in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa by F.A.O.

*1460. **Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:**
Shri K. C. Pant:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the F.A.O. has agreed to undertake a pre-investment Aerial and ground survey of certain areas in Madya Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) whether similar survey will be extended to other areas also?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Government of India have undertaken the Project Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources with assistance from the