

**Road Bridge on National Highway
No. 5**

*464. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1440 on the 3rd September, 1957 in respect of the Road Bridge on National Highway No. 5 and state:

(a) whether the estimate for the proposed bridge over the river Brahmani has been prepared; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) and (b). The estimate for the work has recently been received from the State Government and is under scrutiny of the Central Government. The work of construction is, however, not expected to be taken up early due to paucity of funds and foreign exchange difficulties.

Agricultural Expansion

*465. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only about 40 per cent of the increase in our irrigation potential is being made use of for expanding agricultural output;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn towards the disinclination of our peasants to use irrigation facilities in account of onerous rates; and

(c) Whether there is any scheme of lowering the rates in order to obviate consumer resistance?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 68.]

Rice Godowns

*466. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five rice godowns are being constructed in Manipur under the Technical Co-operation Administration programme during this year;

(b) if so, how much money has been granted for this purpose; and

(c) where these godowns are being constructed?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) In order to experiment on modern culture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) methods of storage of foodgrains, 50 prefabricated godowns were obtained under the TCM Aid and another 38 prefabricated godowns were obtained with Government of India Funds. Five prefabricated godowns are being erected in Manipur.

(b) The cost of the material of these prefabricated godowns is Rs. 1.88 lakhs. The estimated cost of their erection would be Rs. 3.69 lakhs. The total cost would thus be Rs. 5.57 lakhs.

(c) These godowns are being constructed at Imphal.

Transport Facilities in Himachal Pradesh

*467. **Dr. Y. S. Parmar:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Himachal Pradesh Government Transport have made no regular arrangement for the transport of goods from Paonta (District Sirmur, Himachal Pradesh) to Jagadhari;

(b) whether it is a fact that a lot of goods are lying at Paonta for lack of transport facilities;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start regular goods transport service or at least allow the parties concerned from adjoining areas of the Punjab to lift goods either way;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is difference of freight charged on the route between the private operators and Himachal Government Transport; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Although no regular goods transport service is being run, adequate arrangements have been made by the Himachal Government Transport for the transport of goods on this route.

(b) and (c). No.

(d) As this route is exclusively operated by the Himachal Government Transport, the question of difference in freight rates does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Mail Sorting Vans

*468. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Conference of the Regional Heads of Post and Telegraph considered the question of coordination with Railways;

(b) whether the manufacture of Mail Sorting Vans will be accelerated; and

(c) how many new Mail Vans will be manufactured during the current year?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) 64, it is expected.

Flying of Air Taxes

*469. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which it has been possible to allow air taxes to ply in India;

(b) the number of such air taxes plying at present; and

(c) what are the terms and conditions on which taxes are allowed to ply?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) to (c). It is presumed that the reference is to light aircraft used for hire. A statement is accordingly laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 69.]

Bhakra Nangal Project

*470. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1190 on the 26th August, 1957 and state the progress made with regard to the Irrigation and Power works under the Bhakra Nangal Project during 1957-58 so far?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 70.]

Patna Golghar

*471. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken over the Patna Golghar; and

(b) if so, for what purpose that Golghar is being utilized?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jais): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir; to serve as an issue depot for wheat.

Post-retirement Passes

*472. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to reply given to Starred Question No. 696 on the 6th August, 1957 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been arrived at with regard to removal of discrimination between Class