

enquiry into the alleged leakage of Delhi's Master Plan prepared by the Town Planning Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the enquiry has accordingly been instituted;

(c) the composition and terms of reference of the enquiry body; and

(d) the progress made in the enquiry?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The enquiry is being conducted.

(c) A copy of the Health Ministry's letter dated the 29th October, 1959 addressed to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi in this regard is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix I annexure No 17.]

(d) The report of the Chief Commissioner is awaited.

New A.I.I Scheme for Travelling to London

*57. { Shri S. A. Mehdi:
Shri Oza:
Shri M. R. Krishna:

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

(a) whether any new scheme of Air India International with a bank to offer loan to passengers for travelling to London has been introduced;

(b) if so, what are its features; and

(c) the number of Indian passengers who have availed of this opportunity?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). I lay on the Table of the Lok Sabha a statement giving the requisite information. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 18.]

Sinking of the 'Oberon'

*58. Shri Subman Ghose: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry has been held on the sinking of the ship 'Oberon' in the Hooghly on the 7th September, 1959;

(b) if so, the result of the enquiry;

(c) what were the ranks of the employees who died in the accident;

(d) has any compensation been paid to the families of the deceased;

(e) if so, the amount paid in each case;

(f) if the reply to part (d) be in the negative, the reasons for non-payment; and

(g) the loss suffered by Government in this mishap?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (g). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix I, annexure No 19]

National Highways

*59 Shri Damani: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which profits made out of cement distribution by the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd., during the last two years have been utilised for the improvement of National Highways; and

(b) what is the present position in that respect?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). No amount has yet been utilised for the improvement of National Highways. The question of utilising a sum of Rs. 6.99 crores for cement concreting certain sections of National Highways and Rs. 2 crores for the development of certain new roads as National

Highways is under active consideration and specific proposals have been made to the Planning Commission for their concurrence.

'Hydrographic Surveyors'

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

(a) whether there is a proposal for utilising the services of the hydrographic surveyors in Calcutta Harbour, in other minor ports, inland water survey, border river survey etc;

(b) if so, in what form they will be utilised;

(c) the present strength of such surveyors in Calcutta;

(d) whether there has been a demand for increasing the number of such surveyors; and

(e) if so, what action has the Government taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The sanctioned strength of the Calcutta Port Commissioner's River Survey Service consists of one post of River Surveyor, one temporary post of River Surveyor on Special Duty, one post of Deputy River Surveyor, 36 posts of Assistant River Surveyor—(34 permanent and 2 temporary).

(d) and (e). The Calcutta Port Commissioners recently applied for the sanction of the Central Government to the creation of three posts of Assistant River Surveyor for attending to the increased survey works on the River Hooghly. They have been asked to indicate the actual increase in survey work and the basis on which the creation of three more posts has been recommended.

Assam-Agartala Road

*61. { **Shri Dasaratha Deb:**
Shri Bangshi Thakur:

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

(a) whether the condition of the Assam-Agartala Road has deteriorated;

(b) if so the causes of this deterioration; and

(c) the immediate steps suggested to improve condition of the road?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). There has been no deterioration in the condition of the Assam-Agartala Road. The road suffered ordinary damages during the last monsoon. Such damages are usual for hill roads specially when newly constructed. The through traffic on the road was maintained throughout.

Complaints Department of P. & T.

*62. **Shri J. B. S. Bist:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Complaints Department of Posts and Telegraphs was wound up;

(b) if so the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide any alternative machinery to look into specific public complaints?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) to (c). The Complaints Section has not been wound up but has been reorganised on the recommendations of the Special Reorganisation Unit appointed by Government to examine into the working of Departments. The object of this reorganisation is to provide a machinery to check and accelerate disposals of public complaints, to analyse them and to evolve suggestions for removing defects and improving efficiency of the services.