

Sethu Road as National Highway

*667. { Shri Sambandam:
Shri Subbiah Ambalam:

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

(a) whether Madras Government have requested the Centre for the declaration of the Sethu Road (the east coastal road) as the National Highway; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The Madras Government made such a suggestion in November 1958, but it could not be accepted for want of funds.

Family Planning

*668. Shri Jadhav: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1309 on the 17th March, 1959 and state the progress achieved in connection with the investigations at the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, on the oral contraceptive for family planning originally developed at the Calcutta Bacteriological Institute?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): A total number of 774 women have so far been enrolled for study in Calcutta and Singur studies. This includes 224 women enrolled in the Control Group and the rest in the Experimental Group. Before recommending the drug to the public it was considered necessary to conduct further studies in rural areas. For this purpose a pilot study has been in progress in Singur area near Calcutta since August, 1959. So far a total of 160 women have accepted the drug in this area and the number of pregnancies observed in the group so far is 10.

Swiss Experts at Integral Coach Factory, Perambur

*669. Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contracts of Swiss experts at Integral Coach Factory, Perambur have been extended;

(b) if so, what are the terms thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such extension?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (c). Yes. Two of the experts have been allowed to avail themselves of the leave earned by them after the expiry of their contract period. This technically involves an extension of service to the extent of the leave period. One of them has been given an extension for a maximum period of 14 days due to uncertainties of shipping conditions.

(b) On the existing terms and conditions.

Air Agreement with Czechoslovakia Government

*670. { Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

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

(a) whether an air agreement with Czechoslovakia Government has been concluded recently; and

(b) if so, the nature of the agreement?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) Yes, Sir, a bilateral air transport agreement between the Governments of India and Czechoslovakia was initialled in New Delhi on 13th February 1960 by the leaders of delegations of the two countries.

(b) The Agreement provides for the operation of scheduled air transport services by the designated airline of one country to and through the territory of the other country.