

ing operations commenced from Nahorkatiya on 14-11-1960.

(iv) *Contracts and tenders.*—All major contracts and orders for materials, equipment and plant have been placed and deliveries arranged to fit in with the Construction Programme. Contracts have also been placed for the erection of industrial and domestic buildings, construction of which will commence shortly.

(b) The present construction schedule provides for completion of the pipeline upto Noonmati Refinery by December, 1961, and upto Barauni Refinery by July-September, 1962.

#### India-Nepal Road

\*763. **Shri N. R. Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the motorable road which was constructed from the Indian border to Kathmandu is now likely to be extended by the Chinese with the permission of Nepalese Government further north to the Chinese border ostensibly for improving trade between Nepal and Tibet; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Chinese are well established between Sikkim and Bhutan in Chumbi Valley and can easily move in these directions causing border anxiety to India?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) Government have no information.

(b) We have no definite information but we understand that the Chinese authorities are well established in the Chumbi Valley of Tibet.

#### Polling in General Elections

{ **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**  
**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:**

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether polling throughout the country during the coming General Elections will be confined only to three days; and

(b) if so, what other changes are being effected in the election programme?

**The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen):** (a) It is too early to say how long polling will take during the coming General Elections; but it is understood that the Election Commission is planning to finish polling throughout the country, except a few snow-bound areas, within a period of five days. In the snow-bound regions also, the Election Commission is exploring the possibility of taking the poll earlier than on the last occasion, in or about the first week of May.

(b) No other changes in the election programme are at present in contemplation.

#### Rourkela Steel Plant

\*765. **Pandit D. N. Tiwari:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decreasing trend in production at Rourkela has been arrested; and

(b) whether the defects in one of the furnaces have been removed and the furnace is working to its full capacity?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) Production in Rourkela has recently shown improvement. The Works are, however, to reach their rated capacity.

(b) The reference presumably is to the Second Blast Furnace which was shut down during May, 1960 due to a leak in a tuyere which was set right in twelve days. There is no inherent defect in the furnace. During tests, the Blast Furnace has proved that it is capable of full production.

#### Multi-purpose Food ....

\*766. { **Shri Agadi:**  
**Shri Wodeyar:**

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a factory for the production of multi-