

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The proposed highway is a State road under the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: Since a road to Kashmir is not only the concern of the State of Jammu and Kashmir but of India as a whole, why did the Government not consider the suggestion to have a road which is strategically away from the cease-fire line and a road which can be used all the year round as this road will be closed for six months of the year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I hope the hon. Member is aware of the constitutional position under which we are responsible only for the national highways and not for State highways. This happens to be a project which will fall within the purview and definition of "State highways". We have not considered it fit enough to be a national highway for the present.

Koyna Project

***180. Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is delay in commissioning the generators of Koyna Project according to schedule; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delay in commissioning the generators of the Koyna Project is due to the replacement of 220 KV cables of the first two machines which when laid and tested were found faulty. Some delay also occurred due to early onset of heavy rains in cables of the first two machines which caused a heavy land slide blocking the quarry at Adit and hampering the progress of work.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ammonium Sulphate for Tea Industry

***158. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of sulphate of ammonia demanded by the Indian Tea Industry to meet its requirements during the year 1961;

(b) how much of this chemical fertilizer was actually made available to the Tea Industry during that year; and

(c) how far the short supply has affected the out-put of tea during the year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Demand for 1961 manuring season was 1,06,428 tonnes of Sulphate of Ammonia, besides other types of fertilisers equivalent to 83,353 tonnes of Sulphate of Ammonia.

(b) 81,021 tonnes of Sulphate of Ammonia and other fertilisers equivalent to 45,489 tonnes of Sulphate of Ammonia i.e. approximately 91 per cent of demand was actually made available to the Tea Industry.

(c) The output of tea in 1961 reached an all-time record of 770 million lbs.

Sukinda-Pradeep Express Highway in Orissa

***161. Shri B. C. Mullick:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money so far sanctioned for the construction of Sukinda-Pradeep 'Express Highway' in Orissa;

(b) the progress made up to date with regard to the construction of this Highway; and

(c) how long it will take to complete the road project?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The proposed Sukinda-Pradeep Express

Highway, if and when constructed, will be a State road. The State Government are, therefore, primarily concerned with this project. The Government of India have not provided any funds for this Scheme.

Paradip Port

*163. { **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:**
Shri A. Sarma:

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

(a) whether any additional amount has been earmarked in the schemes of Third Five Year Plan besides the amount of nearly 1 crore rupees which was already included for developing Paradip as a major port in place of an intermediate port in the Third Plan;

(b) if so, what is the additional amount which Government have agreed to provide in the Third Plan for developing Paradip as a major port in place of an intermediate port;

(c) whether the Government of India have allowed the Orissa Government to conduct negotiations directly with any other foreign firm for developing Paradip as a major port in the Third Plan; and

(d) if so, what is the position in this respect now?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The amount earmarked in the Third Five Year Plan for the development of Paradip Port is Rs. 1.54 crores to cover the first and second priority works recommended by the Intermediate Ports Development Committee's Report. This is intended to enable Paradip to handle a traffic of 5.5 lakh tons per annum, consisting of 5 lakh tons of iron ore and 0.5 lakh tons of other cargo. No further sums have been earmarked for the development of Paradip to handle larger quantities of iron ore, pending the results of the studies which the Planning Commission had considered necessary.

(c) and (d). The Government of Orissa, on their own, have been having some negotiations with certain foreign firms but no final proposals have so far been received from the State Government which the Government of India can consider.

Railway Platform Tickets

*166. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to reduce the price of Railway Platform Ticket from 10 nP to 5 nP;

(b) if so, from which date;

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for the same; and

(d) how much has been collected on account of sale of Platform Tickets during the last nine months of 1961?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The price of platform ticket has been fixed at 10 nP. with a view to facilitating payment of the price by one coin in the new currency which is now in wide circulation without at the same time resulting in any loss of revenue. The increase was also expected to reduce the overcrowding on platforms to some extent and also to yield some extra revenue.

(d) Approximately 35 lakhs of rupees.

Gandak Project and Sone Barrage Scheme

*167. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state the progress made in regard to the execution of the Gandak Project and the Sone Barrage Scheme till the 28th February, 1962?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 5].