

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].