

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). The report of the Second Joint Indo-American Team on Agricultural Education and Research is under consideration of the Government.

Erosion by Khowai River

2438. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a continuous erosion by Khowai River at Durganagar, Khowai, Tripura, due to construction of bunds by East Pakistan Government on River Khowai; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to stop that erosion?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The Tripura Administration have reported that there is no erosion of a general nature at Durganagar in Tripura, although some land of certain individuals has been affected. There is some erosion at Khowai which has been checked by undertaking suitable measures. As for the effect of construction of spurs by the Pakistan authorities on the opposite side of Khowai town, the Administration have stated that this is met by maintaining and strengthening the existing embankment and spurs in Khowai. A comprehensive scheme for the protection of Khowai has also been prepared. The Local Administration is keeping a constant watch on the effect of the construction of spurs by Pakistan and adequate steps will be taken to protect the town as and when necessary.

Roads in Andhra Pradesh

2439. Shri Venkatasubbaiah: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the allotment made to Andhra Pradesh in the Third Five Year Plan

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for construction of roads under the Village Road Development Co-operative Scheme; and

(b) what amount has so far been utilised by the State Government under this Scheme?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No allotment has been made to Andhra Pradesh for the construction of new roads under the Village Road Development Co-operative Scheme during the Third Five Year Plan, as a decision has not been taken as to whether the Scheme should be continued or not during the current Plan.

(b) The amount utilised by the State Government so far on the road works sanctioned in the First and Second Five Year Plan periods, under the Village Road Development Co-operative Scheme is Rs. 25.19 lakhs.

Passenger trains from Macherla to Nagarjunasagar

2440. Shri Yallamanda Reddy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend passenger trains from Macherla to Nagarjunasagar Dam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (c). The feasibility of and justification for the extension of passenger trains from Macherla to Nagarjunasagar Dam site and back is under examination and such action as is warranted by the examination will be taken in the matter.

P. & T. Employees

2441. Shri Subodh Hansda: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recognition was given to the services of low paid