

Kerala Government for any additional allocations for the purpose.

Rail-cum-Road Bridge Over Brahmaputra

351. Shri Liladhar Kotoki: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra between Amingaon and Pandu; and

(b) when the bridge is expected to be opened for traffic?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The construction of the foundations and piers of the bridge has been completed. The erection of first seven spans of the bridge has also been completed and that of the eighth span is in progress. About 98 per cent of the approach banks have been completed. Overall progress on the construction of this bridge is 85 per cent.

(b) By the end of 1962.

Wagon Factory at Chakradharpur, Bihar

352. Shri H. C. Soy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme ready to set up a wagon factory at Chakradharpur in Bihar;

(b) if so, the progress made so far to implement the scheme; and

(c) what, if any, are the main difficulties in its implementation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Sukinda-Paradip Express Highway

353. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of the Government of Orissa to build an express highway

from Sukinda-Daitari mines to the port at Paradip;

(b) whether any prior discussion with the Government of India or consultation took place before taking up this project and whether any amount is being given by the Central Government for this project; and

(c) whether Government of India have given any assurance to the Government of Orissa that Paradip would be made a major port during the course of the Third Five Year Plan if this highway is constructed?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and

(b). Some time back, the Government of Orissa submitted a proposal for the construction of an express Highway connecting Sukinda-Daitari mines with the Paradip port as part of the integrated project relating to the development of the Paradip Port and the mining of iron ore in the area. That proposal was, however, in a preliminary stage of consideration. The Government of India are not aware of any decision which the Government of Orissa might have taken since then to build the proposed expressway nor have the Central Government given any funds for this project.

(c) No, Sir. The State Government's proposals for developing Paradip into an all-weather port and exporting iron ore through that port are at present being studied by the Planning Commission in consultation with the Ministries concerned. The provision of suitable facilities for the transport of iron ore from the mines to the port is also being studied as part of the overall proposals.

Out-Agency at Chhapara (M.P.)

354. Shri Wadwa: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the factors necessary for entitling a particular town to have an out-agency on behalf of the Railway; and

(b) whether the Administration of South Eastern Railway have looked