

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawas Khan): (a) 4622.

(b) 3875.

(c) Scheduled Castes... 694.
Scheduled Tribes ... 48.

Road Alignment in Badagara Municipality

789. { **Shri A. V. Raghavan:**
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

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

(a) whether the road alignment of the West Coast Road in the Badagara Municipality has been finally fixed;

(b) if so, when the work will be taken up; and

(c) the amount set apart for this in 1962-63?

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

(b) The work will be taken up during the current financial year (1962-63). The preparation of the detailed estimate for the work which was delayed as a result of representations from land owners regarding the alignment of the road, is nearing completion.

(c) Rs. 1.00 lakh as against the total estimated cost of Rs. 3.20 lakhs for the entire work.

Flamingoes

790. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri A. V. Raghavan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rare species of birds known as Flamingoes (P. Roses) are seen in Point Calimere in Tanjore during winter;

(b) what steps Government have taken to preserve this species; and

(c) who was responsible for discovering their presence in India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken by the Government of Madras to protect flamingoes and other birds under the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1912, by declaring the whole year as closed season for shooting these birds within the entire area comprising the taluqs of Nagapatinam and Thiruturaipoondi in Thanjavur district.

(c) Flamingoes have been known in India from very early times. References to published works on birds in India, show that they have been reported about as early as 1864. "The Birds of South India" by Lt. Col. Baker, Indian Army, and Chas. M. Inglis, contain references about these birds having been seen by Maj. E. S. Pythian-Adams in the year 1922. Their congregation at Point Calimere came to the notice of the State Government recently as a result of the survey of the incidence of wild life in the State in winter by the State Wild Life Officer.

Nagarjunasagar Project

791. **Shri Kolla Venkaiah:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the loan sanctioned and disbursed by the Central Government to Andhra Pradesh for the Nagarjunasagar Project;

(b) whether any interest is charged on the loan;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested for removal of interest and for free loan; and

(d) if so, action taken thereon by the Central Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 47.82 crores.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. The State Government has only proposed that the loans advanced to cover the interest charges should be free of interest.

(d) The proposal is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission.

Paediatric Services

792. Shri Kolla Venkalah: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance promised by the UNICEF for the development of Paediatric Services and training in 1963 in India;

(b) the medical colleges and hospitals to whom the assistance is to be allotted; and

(c) the amount allotted to each institution?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) \$236,500.

(b) 24 Medical Colleges and associated hospitals attached to them will get UNICEF assistance. The list of medical colleges and hospitals has not yet been finalised.

(c) (i) 12 Medical Colleges will get full scale assistance at the rate of \$9000 each.

(ii) 6 Medical Colleges will get supplementary assistance at the rate of \$6000 each; and

(iii) 6 Medical Colleges will get first stage assistance at the rate of \$7000 each.

Loktak Lake in Manipur

793. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme to eradicate the water hyacinth from the Loktak lake in Manipur is going to be taken up during the current year;

(b) the quantity of weedicide required for the scheme; and

(c) the time required to complete the scheme to eradicate water hyacinth from the Loktak lake?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes, subject to the timely availability of the weedicide.

(b) 1,12,000 litres (approximately).

(c) The initial air spraying which is expected to clear 90 p.c. of the affected area will take about a month. For clearance of the rest and prevention of reinfestation, mopping up operations will have to continue till the end of the Third Plan.

Manipur State Transport

794. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Manipur State Transport is going to purchase 20 Bedford Trucks through B. B. Company and whether these trucks are suitable for Manipur; and

(b) reasons for not purchasing the trucks through the Director-General of Supply?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). We have no such information. Enquiry has been made from Manipur Administration. Further information will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha as early as possible.

Agricultural Production

795. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar to devise ways and means for improving agricultural production in the country was held at New Delhi in July this year; and

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at in the seminar?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram