

(क) क्या आसाम के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिए तैयार की गई योजना पर विचार कर लिया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार ने क्या निश्चय किया है और उस पर कितना व्यय होने का अनुमान है ?

स्वास्थ्य तथा कृषि मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज़ खां) : (क) तथा (ख). 1963 में आसाम के मिज़ो जिले में क्रियान्वित करने के लिए कुल 5 करोड़ रुपये की लागत का तीन वर्षीय समन्वित विकास कार्यक्रम जिसमें कृषि, संचार, जल सप्लाई और शिक्षा शामिल हैं, योजना आयोग द्वारा अनुमोदित किया गया था ।

#### National Highways

1966. {  
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:  
 Shri K. N. Tiwary:  
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
 Shri S. C. Samanta:  
 Shri Yashpal Singh:  
 Shri R. S. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to give financial aid to each State to link National Highway with the municipal areas of the State; and

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance given so far to various State Governments?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Perhaps, the Members refer to the financing of National Highway links in Municipal areas. The decision of the Central Government to give financial aid for maintenance and/or improvement of the National Highway links in the municipal towns with population of 20,000 or more, was taken under Section 8 of the National Highways Act 1956, whereby the Central Government can enter into an agreement with any State Government in regard

to the development and maintenance of portions of a National Highway within municipal areas, and such agreement may provide for the sharing of the expenditure by the respective parties thereto.

2. Under the terms of the agreement, the Central Government will pay for the development of the National Highways within Municipal areas where a minimum road-land width of 100 ft. will be available, and such links will be treated as permanent National Highway links.

3. Where road land width of 100 ft. is not available the portions passing through Municipal areas will be treated as temporary links of the National Highways, and bypasses around such towns will be constructed later on.

4. For the maintenance of both the permanent and temporary links the Central Government will pay at the rate of Rs. 5,000 per mile per year or the actual expenditure incurred, whichever is less. If any expenditure has to be incurred in excess of Rs. 5,000 per mile for the proper maintenance of the links, such additional expenditure has to be borne by the State Government.

5. So far, such agreements have been signed only with the State Governments of Orissa and Rajasthan, who are now getting financial aid from the Centre according to the terms mentioned above.

The length of such links in Rajasthan and Orissa is 18.77 miles and 3.25 miles respectively.

#### Prices of Rice in Kerala

1967. {  
 Shri P. C. Borooah:  
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the rice growers in Kerala have demanded higher prices for rice;