

between the Centre and State Governments;

(b) whether they were not executing their duties properly in respect of the National Highway Works and were withdrawn from most of the States; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to post such Liaison Officers again in the interest of the efficient, orderly and quick execution of the Centrally financed projects?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Shipping (Shri Bhakt Darshan): (a) There are eleven sanctioned posts of Engineer Officers, depending on their availability, after taking into account the number of officers required at the Headquarters office at New Delhi. Thus, there were nine Liaison Officers posted in the States in 1953 and seven in 1960; but all these officers have been withdrawn to the Headquarters since 1963.

(b) They were executing their duties properly, but were withdrawn from the States to the Headquarters office in connection with the work required for the defence needs of the country.

(c) The proposal is under consideration.

Bangalore Madras National Highway

4479. Shri G. Y. Krishnan:
Shri Tulsidas Dasappa:
Shri Chengalraya Naidu:

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

(a) whether the diversion of the Bangalore-Madras National Highway planned at Kolar in Mysore State has been taken up or there is any alternative proposal;

(b) the public and expert opinions about the construction of this road;

(c) how long it will take to implement the same; and

(d) whether Government are aware that there is a very weak bridge on the said Highway near Tamballi on Palar river?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Shipping (Shri Bhakt Darshan): (a) Yes, Sir. The alignment has been approved, and there is no alternative proposal.

(b) The need for the construction of the bypass is recognized at all hands.

(c) The land acquisition proceedings are in progress. However, due to paucity of funds, the bypass is not likely to be completed during the current plan period.

(d) The bridge across the river Palar is not so weak as to require reconstruction on an urgent basis.

Package Programme in Pali District

4480. Shri S. K. Tapuria: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the package programme in Pali District;

(b) the return on this investment by way of increased agricultural products; and

(c) the reasons for which the programme has been dropped in Pali?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Anna sahib Shinde): (a) The non-loan expenditure incurred by the Government on the Package Programme in Pali District during the Third Five Year Plan period (1961-66) is estimated at approximately Rs. 106 lakhs. This was supplemented by short-term loans advanced by the cooperatives to the farmers for purchase of inputs.

(b) As a result of the implementation of the Package Programme, the production of food-grains in the district has shown an upward trend during the Third Plan period, except for the decline in 1963-64 caused by wide-spread drought. The average