

of Tourism, during the year 1967-68 Territory-wise;

(b) whether it is proposed to widen and strengthen the Airstrip at Bhuntar to make it fit for all the year round service to Kulu Valley; and

(c) if so, the estimated cost thereof?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) The question of giving grants or loans to the Union Territories without Legislatures i.e. Delhi, A & N Islands, L.M. & A. Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and NEFA does not arise as the budgets of these Union Territories form part of the Central Budget. In regard to the other Union Territories also which have Legislatures i.e. Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman and Diu and Pondicherry, no grants or loans are given for individual schemes or sectors of development, such as tourism. They are given grants-in-aid to meet the overall deficit in their revenue estimates and loans to meet their net capital expenditure (expenditure minus recoveries).

(b) An all-weather runway at Bhuntar (Kulu) has recently been constructed at a cost of Rs. 12.9 lakhs. The location of the Airstrip does not permit any further expansion. There is, therefore, no proposal to further widen and strengthen the airstrip.

(c) Does not arise.

Jammu-Srinagar Highway

**8344. Shri Bal Raj Madhok:
Shri Yajna Datt Sharma:
Shri Sharda Nand:
Shrimati Shakuntala Nayyar:**

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

(a) the total amount spent on the improvement of Jammu-Srinagar Highway during the last five years;

(b) whether Government have considered the proposal of an alternative Highway to Srinagar via Kishtwar and Sinthan Pass to relieve pressure on Jammu-Srinagar Highway; and

(c) if so, the decision arrived at?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Shipping (Shri Bhakt Darshan): (a) The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. As the proposed route from Chamba to Srinagar via Bhaderwah-Kishtwar-Sinthan pass and Anantnag was to pass through high altitudes, which remains snow-bound for nearly five to six months in the year, the construction of the road along this route was not considered useful.

Roads and Bridges in Union Territories

8345. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state the loans and grants proposed to be given to the various Union Territories for the construction of Roads and Bridges during the year 1967-68, Territory-wise?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Shipping (Shri Bhakt Darshan): The question of giving grants or loans to the Union Territories without Legislatures (i.e. Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli) would not evidently arise as their budgets are part of the Central Budget. As regards the Union Territories with Legislatures (i.e. Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman and Diu and Pondicherry), no grants or loans are given to them for individual items, such as roads and bridges. They are given grants-in-aid to meet the overall deficit in their revenue estimates and loans to meet their net capital expenditure (i.e. expenditure minus recoveries). The overall provision that exists in the Central Budget for the grant of such loans and grants-in-aid during 1967-68 is shown in the attached statement.