

Amount allocated and spent on road during the Fourth Five Year Plan

3107. SHRI A. N. CHAWLA :  
SHRI DEVINDER SINGH  
GARCHA :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a sum of rupees 418 crores was allocated for roads in the Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether rupees 66 crores were only utilised during the first two years of the Plan on this account, if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to see that public Works Departments streamline their machinery and launch a crash programme of road building and step up tempo of project execution; and

(d) the particular steps taken to ensure that the States expedite the execution of rural road schemes and do not divert funds allocated for them ?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :**

(a) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 418 crores has been allocated for Central Sector Road Schemes in the Fourth Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir. The slow progress is due to the lack of adequate organisations, cumbersome procedures, shortage of certain essential construction materials, land acquisition problems etc.

(c) The entire matter was discussed in detail at a recent Conference of State Public Works Secretaries and Chief Engineers held at New Delhi from 5th to 7th June, 1971, when the need and urgency of stepping up the tempo of work was explained to them and various steps required to achieve the objective by streamlining the existing procedures and augmenting the present organisations were indicated. The steps already taken by the Government of India include:—

(1) Sanction of 1½ percent out of the 7½% of the cost of schemes as agency charges as an initial payment to enable the State Public Works Departments to engage staff for advance action pertaining to investigation, project preparation, planning of schemes etc.; and

(2) Liberalisation in the existing powers authorising the Audit to admit without the submission of detailed estimates to Government of India excess expenditure over sanctioned estimates by increasing the upper limit from Rs. 25,000/- to 10% of the cost of the schemes subject to a limit of Rs. 2.50 lakhs. In addition, recommendations were made at the recent meeting of State Public Works Secretaries and Chief Engineers for :

- (i) strengthening of State Public Works Department Organisations and provision of separately earmarked staff for Central Road Schemes;
- (ii) creation of Specialist Cells in the State Public Works Departments for material management, designing and planning,
- (iii) appointment of separate officers with powers of Collector for Land Acquisition to be attached to State Public Works Departments;
- (iv) streamlining the existing procedure and reducing the time lag in the invitation of tenders, their settlement and award of work and commencement of work thereafter;
- (v) strengthening of the Central Roads Wing; and
- (vi) constant review of progress.

(d) Rural Roads fall primarily within the sphere of State activities and all matters pertaining to them are the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. This matter was also discussed in detail at the recent conference of State Public Works Secretaries and Chief Engineers when the need and urgency of stepping up the pace of rural roads development work in the States was stressed and measures suggested for augmentation of the resource of States for rural roads. In this connection, it was also urged upon them not to divert funds earmarked for rural roads. This had

been brought to the notice of the state government earlier also following the recommendation of the Transport Development Council held in June, 1968.

**Appointment of Executives for the Nationalised Insurance Companies**

3108. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :  
SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF ;  
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have appointed Executives for those Insurance Companies, which have been nationalised recently; and

(b) if so, what would be the follow-up action after the nationalisation of the Insurance Companies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Government have appointed Custodians to carry on the management of 102 out of 106 general insurance companies whose managements were taken over under the General Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Ordinance, 1971. For the remaining four companies, namely, Oriental Fire & General Insurance Co. Ltd., Jupiter General Insurance Co. Ltd., Indian Guaratee & General Insurance Co. Ltd., and India Re-insurance Corporation Ltd., the existing Managements continue to manage on behalf of the Government.

(b) In due course, it is proposed to introduce a Bill in Parliament for nationalising all these insurance companies and consolidating them into four general insurance corporations.

**Provision of Credit Facilities for Industries**

3109. SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Manufacturers Organisation has recently made certain suggestions to the Government regarding credit freeze and providing better credit facilities for the industries and for their proper development; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) Yes Sir, The Organisation has represented against the ceilings imposed by the commercial banks on the credit limits.

(b) The Reserve Bank so regulates the flow of bank credit as to ensure that genuine requirements of the industries for productive purpose are met.

**Theft and Pilferages of Imported goods meant for Nepal while in Transit Ships**

3110. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether thefts and pilferages of imported goods meant for Nepal are occurring during transit in the ships before the imported goods even reach India;

(b) whether imported consignments have been substituted by sea sands, discarded ship parts and foreign packing material etc. in the Port Commissioner's godown; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to check such pilferages and thefts of imported goods?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) the Port Commissioners receive goods only on landing and grant receipt to the Shipping Agents according to outward condition of cases and packages. It is not possible for them to say whether pilferage of any cargo is occurring in transit in ships.

(b) The Port Commissioners have stated that no such incidents have been reported.

(c) The Calcutta Port Commissioners have taken all possible measures to prevent pilferage and theft of cargoes while such cargoes are in their custody.