

(a) whether the work to link Kulu District through S.T.D. with remaining parts of the country is in progress; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be-completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By March, 1991.

Alternative Road to Link Kulu District

1352. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway No. 21 is closed several times between Mandi and Manali due to land slides during the rainy season and Kullu and Lahaul Spiti

Districts are cut off from the rest of the country from traffic point of view;

(b) if so, the number of times that Highway remained closed during 1990 and the number of days for which it remained closed each-time;

(c) whether there is any proposal to link the Kulu district with other parts of the country by an alternative road;

(d) whether any suggestions have been received in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. National Highway 21 between Mandi and Manali remained closed in different stretches as under as informed by the State PWD:—

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Date of closer</i>	<i>Duration of closure (days)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1.	9.2.90 & 10.2.90	1/2 day
2.	13.2.90 & 14.2.90	1/2 day
3.	1.3.90	3/4 day
4.	20.3.90 & 27.3.90	7 1/2 days
5.	25.6.90	1/6 day
6.	9.7.90 to 13.7.90	4 1/2 days
7.	15.7.90	1/12 day
8.	28.7.90 to 30.7.90	1 1/2 day

(c) to (e). While no proposal has been received from the State Govt., a suggestion has been received for developing the link from Mandi to Bajaura via Katuala and Kandi

to serve as an alternative route to Kullu which has been referred to the State Government.