

[Translation]

**Repair of National Highway No. 8**

4656. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highway No. 8 between Delhi-Bombay is damaged at several places and its condition between Ajmer and Abu Road is very bad; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government for repair of this National Highway ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b) National Highway No. 8 is in a traffic-worthy condition. This Highway, *inter-alia*, connects Jaipur-Ajmer-Beawar-Udaipur-Ahmedabad and Bombay. Ajmer-Abu Road *via* Beawar-Pali-Sirohi is a State Road and as such the Government of Rajasthan are essentially concerned with its maintenance

[English]

**Construction of field channels and drains**

4657. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government has proposed to grant assistance to the Government of West Bengal for constructing field channels and drains in the major irrigation commands of Kangsabati, Damodar valley, Mayurakshi and Teesta Irrigation Projects during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the target fixed for such works;

(c) the amount of assistance released by the Union Government for such works under the Sixth Plan and what percentage thereof was actually utilised by the State Government; and

(d) the Sixth Plan outlay for such works in West Bengal and the actual utilisation of such funds by the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) As these projects are included in the Centrally Sponsored CAD programme for the Seventh Plan, they will receive Central assistance for field channels according to the approved pattern and for subsidy on the IRDP pattern to small and marginal farmers for field drains.

(b) The Government of West Bengal has still to communicate the project-wise targets for field channels though an overall target of 3 Lakh hectares has been fixed for this item for the Seventh Plan for the State.

(c) An amount of Rs. 46.945 lakh was released to the State Government in the Sixth Plan for field channels. Such assistance is released on reimbursement basis.

(d) The total approved outlay in the CAD Sector for all works including field channels for West Bengal was Rs. 822 lakh against which the expenditure was Rs. 384.75 lakhs.

**Loss due to transportation of coal by box 'N' type wagons**

4658. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether transportation of coal to Thermal Power Stations by box 'N' type wagons results in a loss of 15 to 18 per cent; and

(b) what are the rules regarding the time limits for emptying goods from such wagons by the labourers and tippers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) There is no such loss on the Railways.

(b) Free time for unloading a rake of 45 or more Box-N wagons is 11 hours in the case of manual operation and 10 hours in the case of mechanical operation.