

**Ernakulam-Wellington Island Bridge and New Bridge Connecting Wellington Island and Mattanchery in Kerala**

1612. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the construction of Ernakulamwellington Island bridge in Kerala;

(b) the total cost of the bridge ;

(c) when it is likely to be opened for traffic;

(d) whether a decision has been taken to construct a new bridge connecting Wellington Island and Mattanchery;

(e) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started; and

(f) the cost of the bridge ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The work on foundations and substructure of Ernakulam-Wellington Island bridge (Venduruthy Bridge) is at various stages of progress;

(b) work of bridge proper was awarded at a cost of Rs. 489. 00 lacs;

(c) The work on the bridge is scheduled to be completed by 1988;

(d) to (f) The need for construction of a new bridge in lieu of old Mattanchery bridge exists. A survey study on the proposed new bridge by National Transportation Planning and Research Centre has been sanctioned by the Government of Kerala in September 1985.

**Working of Transfer Cranes at Cochin Port**

1613 PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hours the commissioned transfer cranes at Cochin Port worked after commissioning;

(b) whether the working of the cranes is satisfactory; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c) The cranes have been put to trial operations and they have been found to be working satisfactorily.

**Safety of Bridges on National Highways**

1614. PROF. K. V. THOMAS :

SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to assess the safety of bridges on National Highways ; and

(b) the number of bridges on National Highways in Kerala which are safe ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) ; (a) Recently a detailed survey of the existing condition of bridges on National Highways has been undertaken to assess their safety ;

(b) Out of the total number of 121 bridges on National Highways in Kerala ; 27 bridges are reported to be suffering from some sort of distress. Out of these 27 bridges, 12 bridges are proposed to be reconstructed, two bridges will be bypassed with the completion of Cochin bypass and the remaining 13 bridges will be repaired. However, all these bridges are in a traffic worthy condition at present.

**Airport at Lakshadweep**

1615. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :