

**Improving a Stretch of 719.95 Kilometres of Road on east coast Alignment in Tamil Nadu**

2248. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:  
SHRI N. SUNDRAJAN:

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

(a) whether 38 major and minor bridges constructed with the assistance of Central Government under Economic and Inter-State Importance scheme on the East Coast alignment in Tamil Nadu, with an investment of Rs. 4 crores, are not in use for want of link roads connecting them;

(b) whether large scale smuggling in these parts can be prevented by having an all weather communication roads so that round-the-clock patrolling can be done; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken for improving a stretch of 719.95 Kms. to National Highway standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) No such reports have been received from Tamil Nadu Govt. who are primarily concerned with this road as it is a State Road.

(b) Funds aggregating about Rs. 3 crores have already been provided to the State Govt. for construction of missing road links and bridges under the Central-aid-programme of loan assistance for State Roads of inter-State or Economic Importance and from Central Road Fund. The State Govt. are concerned with the execution of works against these funds in order to prevent smuggling etc.

(c) The road in question is not a National Highway and question of improvement to National Highway Standard does not, therefore, arise. It is a State Road and the State Govt. are concerned with its development and maintenance.

**U.P. Government Request for wagons for Potatoes**

2249. SHRI B. D. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U.P. had requested for the allotment of wagons to move potatoes outside the State;

(b) if so, when a request for the supply of wagons was made by the Government of U.P. and the number of wagons asked for;

(c) the number of wagons supplied so far as against the demand made by the Government of U.P.; and

(d) in case the demand of the Government of U.P. has not been met in full, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) In December 1980 Government of U.P. asked for the allotment of 47,405 wagons for loading of potatoes from U.P. during January to April 1981.

(c) and (d). Potato traffic in U.P. is mostly offered by the trade and not by the Government of U.P. The demand for wagons for potato loading December 1980 to February 1981 (upto 15th), a total of 1537 broad gauge and 2173 metre gauge wagons of potatoes were loaded from U.P. served by the Northern and North Eastern Railways. The pending indents on 15-2-1981 were 404 on the Broad Gauge and 7751 on the Metre Gauge.

The demand for loading potatoes on Metre Gauge of North Eastern Railway could not be met in full due to reluctance of merchants to load potatoes in block rakes on the plea that arrival of a rake at a destination would cause a drop in price. As a