

year for the construction of the C.P.W.D. roads in Orissa;

(b) what amount has been actually spent last year for the above work; and

(c) whether the progress of the C.P.W.D. roads in the District of Sambalpur has been satisfactory?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Rs. 9.15 lakhs.

(b) According to preliminary accounts, the amount actually spent was Rs. 8.86 lakhs.

(c) No road works in the District of Sambalpur are now being executed by the Central Public Works Department.

Food Production

1002. Shri Venkatasubbalah: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the steps Government propose to take to ensure adequate supply of various agricultural implements and chemical manures at reasonable prices to the agriculturists to step up food production in the country?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):

Agricultural Implements

Though there is no price control on agricultural implements, the Government of India have been frequently requesting the importers and the dealers to charge reasonable prices for these items in addition, instructions have been issued to the State Governments to utilise the G.M.F. Loans for the purchase of capital equipments such as tractors, ploughs, harrows, rigs, drills, casing pipes, etc. By convention, it has been left to the State Governments to provide for the distribution of cheaper types of such implements with the help of taccavi loans. The Government of India also propose to set up a Tractor Users' Association, with representatives of importers, dealers, manufacturers, farmers, and the State and the Central Governments, to ensure, *inter alia*

that the dealers and importers charge reasonable prices for agricultural machinery and implements. The Government have also issued licenses to certain parties for manufacturing agricultural implements in the country, which would make these implements available to the cultivators at cheaper prices in future.

Chemical Manures:

Nitrogenous fertilisers are being distributed in the country through a Government Trading Scheme *viz.* the Central Fertiliser Pool. The purpose of the Pool is to arrange equitable supplies at reasonable rates. Under this scheme the entire indigenous production of chemical fertilisers is taken over by the Central Pool. Imports of fertilisers for meeting the deficit are also made on Government account and added to the Pool. The pooled supplies are issued at a uniform issue price which is generally fixed on 'No-profit No loss' basis.

Bridge near Naya Nagar Station

1003. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the great inconvenience caused to the railway passengers at the Naya Nagar Railway Station on the Samastipur-Mansi section of the North Eastern Railway who have to come to the station from the Northern side of the Railway line;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have to cross a deep ditch which falls between the approach road and the Railway station;

(c) whether any proposal to build a bridge over this ditch has been considered, and

(d) if so, the nature of the decision taken?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The fact is that the District Board road from the North crosses over a level