

measures were also taken. After the recent floods traffic was diverted on the temporary diversion road. The Central Government have also since sanctioned the work of constructing a permanent diversion road at a cost of Rs. 10,35,500. This work will commence shortly.

#### **Sugarcane Research Workers' Conference**

**614. Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Sugarcane Research Workers' Conference was held in Pusa Institute recently; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken in the Conference?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The resolutions adopted at the Conference are placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 78].

#### **Pandu Inland Port**

**615. Shri Basumatari:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the steps being taken for the development of Pandu Inland Port?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir):** The Ganga Brahmaputra Water Transport Board have prepared designs for the development of Pandu Port, including the stabilising of the river front at the selected site and the provision of improved road and rail connections, transit sheds and berths. The question of acquiring the land required for the Project is under investigation at present.

#### **Navigability of Rivers in Assam**

**616. Shri Basumatari:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the steps being taken for improving the navigability of the rivers in Assam?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir):** The Second Five Year Plan includes a provision of Rs. 42 lakhs for building dredgers for the Brahmaputra and Rs. 1 lakh for building snag-clearing boats. Tenders for the dredgers have been received and are under consideration. Orders can however be placed only if the necessary foreign exchange is available.

#### **Air Field at Shillong**

**617. Shri Basumatari:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 288 on the 28th May, 1957 and state:

(a) whether any further steps are being taken for the construction of an all-weather air-field at Shillong; and

(b) if not, whether any new sites in Assam are being considered?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not for the present.

#### **Bridge over Jia Bharali**

**618. Shri Basumatari:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1682 on the 11th September, 1957 regarding the estimate of an additional expenditure of Rs. 30 lakhs for the construction of a bridge over Jia Bharali and state at what stage the matter stands at present?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir):** Apart from the additional funds that will be required for the construction of the bridge, the foreign exchange requirements have also to be considered now. These are under examination in consultation with the State Government.