

Jawahar Tunnel

315. { **Shri D. C. Sharma;**
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1209 on the 7th September, 1959 and state the further progress of work done so far in the completion of Jawahar Tunnel which will provide an all-weather road between Jammu and Kashmir?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The progress of the Western and Eastern Tubes of the Jawahar Tunnel is as given below

Western Tube

- (i) Pilot heading and widening to full section completed
- (ii) Lining work almost completed
- (iii) The work on roadway, foot-path etc almost completed

Eastern Tube

- (i) Pilot heading completed
- (ii) Widening to full section, about 80 per cent completed
- (iii) Lining of tunnel in progress about 50 per cent completed

Airport at Chandigarh

316. **Shri D. C. Sharma** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether any progress has been made in finalisation of the scheme for development of the airport at Chandigarh, and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohinddin): (a) The existing aerodrome at Chandigarh has been provided with an all-weather runway 1500 X 33 yards with necessary taxi-

tracks and apron, technical and residential buildings. Essential equipment and staff have also been provided there, and the aerodrome is fully equipped to meet the needs of Civil Aviation. No further scheme of development is contemplated for the present.

(b) Does not arise

Breaches in Jullundur-Mukerian Railway Line

317 **Shri Inder J. Malhotra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 1560 on the 25th August, 1959 regarding the suspension of Railway traffic on Jullundur-Mukerian Railway line and state;

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to avoid such frequent breaches on the railway line in future; and

(b) the main causes leading to these breaches?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b) On Jullundur-Mukerian Section there are hill torrents originating in the Sub-Sivalik range near Hoshiarpur, which meander and flood the country and cause breaches to the Railway line. The canalising of some of these "choes" is under examination by the Punjab Government. One bridge which was damaged in the last monsoon, is proposed to be rebuilt with additional waterway. A new bridge with adequate waterway is also proposed to be provided at another site which had breached.

On Mukerian-Pathankot Section slips have occurred at the cutting near Chakki bridge. These cannot be entirely prevented. Efforts are, however, made every year to remove over-hanging portions. The slope of the cutting is also proposed to be further flattened this year and it is expected that this will minimise slips in future.