

(ख) क्या सरकार ने उस लापरवाही की कोई जांच की है जिससे 41 करोड़ रुपयों का नुकसान हुआ था; और

(ग) क्या सम्बद्ध अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करने का विचार है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री ए० बी० ए० गनी खाँ चौधरी) : (क) दिवा-बसई रोड रेल सम्पर्क परियोजना का काम समय पर शुरू न किये जाने के लिये रेलवे बोर्ड द्वारा ठेकेदारों की क्षतिपूर्ति का भुगतान करने का कोई प्रश्न नहीं है। किन्तु परियोजना के खण्ड 7-ए और 7-बी में कुछ समय के लिये ठेकेदारों द्वारा निष्पादित कार्य का स्थानीय लोगों ने कुछ विरोध किया था, जिसके लिये ठेकेदारों को उपयुक्त समयावधि बढ़ाने की स्वीकृति दी गयी थी। उसके बाद ठेकेदारों ने उपरोक्त दोनों खण्डों के लिए विभिन्न प्रकार के कई दावे प्रस्तुत किए जो क्रमशः लगभग 40 लाख और 20 लाख रुपए की राशि के थे। दावे मध्यस्थों को भेजे गये थे, जिसमें इन खण्डों में निर्माण कार्य के लिये क्रमशः लगभग 17.5 लाख और 3.76 लाख रुपये देने का निर्णय दिया और इन रकमों का ठेकेदार को भुगतान कर दिया गया है।

इस्पाती गडरों और स्लीपरों की लागत में वृद्धि मूल्यों में वृद्धि होने के कारण हुई जिसका कारण पिछले दशकों में मुद्रा स्फीति का रुख है। इस लेखे में लागत में हुई कुल वृद्धि लगभग 2 करोड़ रुपये है।

(ख) जैसा कि कहा गया है, कोई हानि नहीं हुई है और इसलिये लापरवाही के कारण हुई हानि के लिए जांच कराने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

(ग) उपर्युक्त भाग (ख) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Regional co-operation among South Asian Countries

3072. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's offer on regional co-operation among developing countries within the scope of South Asian regional co-operation for technical co-operation has received any response ;

(b) if so, the details of the technical co-operation offer and the response from developing countries thereto ; and

(c) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) : (a) and (b) India has been actively participating in various meetings on South Asian Regional Cooperation in which possibilities of technical cooperation among the countries of South Asia have been discussed. India has put forward several proposals for technical cooperation in areas such as Agriculture, Meteorology, Rural Development, Science & Technology, Telecommunications and Transport Services. The response of the other countries of the region to India's proposals has been positive.

(c) A Meeting of Foreign Ministers of South Asian countries was held in New Delhi on August 1-2, 1983. At the conclusion of the Meeting the Foreign Ministers signed a Declaration on South Asian Regional Cooperation. They also launched an Integrated Programme of Action incorporating programmes of cooperation in the fields of Agriculture, Rural Development, Telecommunications, Meteorology, Health and Population, Postal Services, Transport Services, Science & Technology and Sports, Arts & Culture.

Alternative Highway to J.V. Road Connecting Jammu with Srinagar

3073. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the proposal for construction of an alternative highway to J.V. Road connecting Jammu with Srinagar; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Moghal Road will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) The State Government are Pressing for providing an alternative highway to National Highway No. 1A to connect Jammu with Srinagar, and have suggested an alignment along the Moghal Road via Rajouri, Poonch, Bafliaz, Shopian and Pulwama. However, this new road, as and when constructed, would be a State Road and as such all matters pertaining to its construction etc. are to be dealt with by the State Government.

Amount spent on batote-doda national Highway

3074. SARI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have declared the Batote-Doda road in Jammu & Kashmir as National Highway; and

(b) if so, amount spent on it so far, and time by which the road will be fully developed according to schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The Batote-Doda-Kishtwar road was declared as National Highway No. 1B in June, 1977.

(b) This National Highway is to be developed to single-lane N.H. Standards. The improvement/development works were started in 1979 and an expenditure of Rs. 4.30 crores has been incurred upto March, 1983. Development work is to be carried over to the 7th plan and would be completed thereafter depending upon the availability of funds.

Dancing troupes visit abroad

3075. SHRI BRAJI MOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many dancing troupes sponsored by Government or Governmental agencies visited the foreign countries during 1982-83 and 1983-84 upto May end which of the countries they visited with name of leading dancers in each troupe;

(b) whether all classical dances of the country have been projected through these cultural troupes; and

(c) whether any Orissi dancers represented India in such troupes, if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) : (a) Details of performing troupes sent out by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in 1982-83 and upto May 1983 are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT-6865 83].

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The names of these Orissi dancers are (i) Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra, (ii) Smt. Sanjukta Panigrahi, (iii) Km. Malavika Sarukkai, and (iv) Smt. Malti Parikh. Details regarding visits by these dancers may be seen in the statement.

An Orissa Folk dance group led by Sri Bhagban Sahu of Narendrapur (Orissa) was also sent to participate in the Festival of India in UK and to give performances in Spain in November 1982.

Setting up of Cement Plant in Nepal

3076. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian delegation had gone to Nepal in the first week of June to finalise the setting up of a cement plant there and to discuss in depth the assistance India had offered for setting up 12 industrial projects in Nepal; and

(b) if so, the details about the outcome of the aforesaid discussions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir, a four