

(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