

(f) if so, the names thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

(d) The total length of National Highways in Assam including Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Manipur is 2,360 Kilometres. There is no national highway in NEFA.

(e) and (f). So far, works relating to improvement of the road from Silchar to Jirighat (29 miles) at an estimated cost of Rs 26 lakhs and the construction of a bridge over the river Jiri at Jirighat at an estimated cost of Rs. 30 lakhs have been approved in Assam for 100% loan assistance under the Central Aid Programme of State Roads of Inter-State or Economic Importance in the Fourth Plan. This road links the Union Territory of Manipur with Assam. The proposals received from Union Territories are receiving attention.

Steamer services between Jogigopa-Pandu-Nimatighat

6408. **SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any scheme to run steamer services between (i) Jogigopa and Pandu (ii) Pandu and Nimatighat by the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation ;

(b) whether it is a fact that some old steamers were sold by the Corporation ; and

(c) if so, the numbers of steamers sold and the amount received from the sales ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) The Central Inland Water Transport Corporation has no new scheme for running river services between Jogigopa and Pandu or Pandu and Nimatighat.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ninety eight vessels have been sold at a total cost of Rs. 90,01,373.

Assistance asked for by Diploma Holders and Engineers from the State Bank of India, New Delhi

6409 **SHRI B. S. BHAURA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Diploma Holders and Engineers in various Branches who had asked for assistance from the State Bank of India, New Delhi during the last one year for starting some small-scale industries in Delhi Haryana and Punjab ;

(b) the number of applications accepted and the amount of loans given ; and

(c) the main reasons for rejecting the remaining applications and their number ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) So far 251 Engineers including diploma holders have approached State Bank of India, New Delhi for setting up small scale industries in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. They had submitted 199 applications. Out of these the bank has approved 86 applications and disbursed loans of Rs. 1.30 crores. Out of remaining, 31 were rejected while 25 applications were withdrawn by the applicants. Rest of the applications are still under consideration with the Bank.

(c) The bank rejected the applications on account of various reasons such as the project being non-viable, inability of the entrepreneurs to implement the scheme, lack of scope for setting up particular projects etc. All the proposals are examined by the bank in consultation with the Small Industries Service Institutes and other technical personnel. Individual proposals are considered on merits.

Grant of loan for purchase of wheat to Central Government employees

6411. **SHRI RUTA SINGH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Central Government are considering a proposal for the grant of loan facilities for purchase of wheat to its employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : No, Sir.