

(a) whether India has agreed to undertake the construction of 300 Kilometre Butwal-Nepalgunj Sector of the East-West Highway on India-Nepal Border; and

(b) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard and if so, the main features thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The East-West Highway is now named as Mahendra Rajmarg.

(b) Yes, Sir. The main features of the agreement in this regard signed on the 15th June, 1972 are as follows :—

- (i) The Government of India has agreed to provide financial assistance of Rs. 25.82 crores in Indian Currency for construction of this project.
- (ii) The Project is to be executed by the Board set up by H. M. G., Nepal for executing the Eastern Sector of the East-West Highway.
- (iii) Every endeavour is to be made to complete the Project by 31st March, 1976.
- (iv) The construction of the link road to Nepalgunj (21 Kms) and the link road to Krishna Nagar (19 Kms) is also included in this project.
- (v) H. M. G., Nepal will provide necessary land for the Project free from all encumbrances.
- (vi) H. M. G., Nepal will provide the requisite foreign exchange against rupee payment for any plant and machinery to be imported for the Project.
- (vii) Nepalese engineers and Overseers will be afforded facilities for training on the Project and employment facilities will be afforded to them on posts for which they are qualified by their training and experience.

Seminar on Indo-German relations

620. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Seminar on India and Indo-German relations is proposed to be held in Germany and also in India this year; and

(b) if so, the dates, venue and subject of the Seminar ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under the Cultural Exchange Programme between India and the Federal Republic of Germany for 1972-73, there is a proposal for organizing a seminar on India and Indo-German relations in the Federal Republic of Germany. However, no decision has yet been taken about its timing.

Import of Fertilisers

621. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has imported NPK complex fertiliser of various grades from USA and other countries for seeding programme of IFFCO and other agencies;

(b) whether it was technically possible to import DAP and MOP separately at comparatively cheaper prices for local manufacture of NPK complex fertiliser; and

(c) whether Government are going to import once again such costly NPK complex grades this year over-looking the interest of foreign exchange conservation ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes.

(b) The question whether instead of import of finished NPK complex fertilisers, DAP and MOP could be imported and used for granulation of NPK within the country is being examined.

(c) The decision whether NPK complex grades will continue to be imported will depend on the examination mentioned above.