

PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have provided a grant of Rs. 1 crore to the State of Himachal Pradesh for Rural Water Supply Schemes ; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of such scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) Yes.

(b) The Central Government have initiated a Central Scheme for accelerated Rural water Supply during 1972-73 to ensure the provision of safedrinking water supply to disadvantaged villages under the following categories :—

(1) Villages which do not have an assured source of drinking water within a reasonable distance (say one mile).

(2) Villages which need protection or treatment of their existing sources of water supply if they lie in areas which are cholera endemic or guineaworm infested or for other reasons such as presence of flourides, salinity or iron in excessive quantities ; and

(3) Villages which have inadequate arrangement of supply of drinking water for weaker sections of society such as the tribals, Harijans, etc.,

During 1972-73, schemes worth Rs. 20 crores would be sanctioned and this assistance would be available to the State Governments and Union Territories as grant-in-aid.

Alignment of National Highway from Feroke to Ernakulam

1134. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been insistent demands from the people and the Government of Kerala for the re-alignment to National Highway 17 from Feroke to Ernakulam ;

(b) if so, the decision of the Government of India ; and

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has offered to reimburse the cost of the road between Feroke and Trichur in this highway ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI OM MEHTA) : (a) and (b). Feroke and Ernakulam are connected by two National Highways, viz., N. H. No. 17 (Between Feroke and Trichur) and N. H. No. 47 (between Trichur and Ernakulam). There has been a demand from several quarters for the development of coastal road between Feroke and Ernakulam involving the re-alignment of N. H. No. 17 between Feroke and Trichur and the provision of an altogether new road along the coast from near Trichur up to Ernakulam close and parallel to the existing N. H. No. 47. The proposal was examined and the State Government have been requested to review the matter further by collecting certain information, details and additional cost data.

(c) Yes, Sir, the State Government has offered to reimburse the expenditure incurred by the Central Government on the development of this road.

Report of the study on Fall in Price of Coconut in Kerala

1135. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had sent a Study Team to study the crash in Coconut prices in Kerala ;

(b) if so, whether the team has submitted its report ; and

(c) the salient features of the report and the decision of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The Team recommended certain measures like initiating price support measures, restricting the import of copra, relaxation of some restrictions in [forward trading in coconut oil, increasing the productivity per unit area and rejuvenation of diseased coconut plantations, modernising the Copra Milling Industry in Kerala and improving the marketing arrangements. After consideration of the recommendations made by the team, the Government have