

Bihar far behind in construction and development of National Highways

2961. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar is behind its Fourth Plan target on the construction and development of National Highways and out of total allocation of Rs. 44.5 crores including Rs. 27.5 crores for sanctioned schemes, only 3.5 crores have been spent so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the Central Government has asked the State Government for such delayed action and slow progress in construction of National Highways; and

(c) if so, the reply Government of Bihar has given to the Centre and what further steps the Centre propose to take to remove the malady ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI OM MEHTA) : (a) to (c). Estimates sanctioned to date total to Rs 31.79 crores against Rs. 44.5 crores assessed to be the cost of development works on National Highways in Bihar during the Fourth Plan. The expenditure incurred till 31st March, 1972 is Rs 7.33 crores.

The reasons for the relatively slow progress in the execution of National Highway works in Bihar have been discussed recently with the State Public Works Department officers. The main reasons for slow progress have been the delay in acquisition of land, and settlement of tenders for works, besides difficulty in transportation of bitumen and contractual problems. The State P.W.D. have been asked to expedite settle-

ment of contracts and push up the works. They have indicated that during the current financial year (1972-73) the expenditure on works would be of the order of Rs. eight crores.

Rules framed for appointment to certain Posts in Delhi Milk Scheme

2962. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Rules had been framed for appointment to the Posts of Inquiry Officer, Personnel Officer and Administrative Officer in the Delhi Milk Scheme as envisaged in the provision to Article 311 of the Constitution; and if so, whether he would lay a copy thereof on the Table;

(b) the manner in which the appointments to these posts had been made presently;

(c) whether some appointments are being reversed despite the fact that the incumbents thereof fulfilled the prescribed conditions regulating the respective appointments; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken or proposed to be taken to set matters right and retain the *status quo* ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) Recruitment Rules have been framed under Article 309 of the Constitution of India for regulating appointments to three posts. A copy each of the Recruitment Rules is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-3463/72].

(b) The position regarding appointment to these posts is as under :