

had expressed doubts about the ability of M/s Zuari Agro Chemicals to go on stream. But the commitments of the Zuari Agro Chemicals taken for the purpose of planning were based on the firm estimates, given by the manufacturers and the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals.

(c) The Government of India have not been able to accept the pleas of the State Government to make up, from the Pool the shortfall by Zuari Unit because of the limited supplies available with the Central Fertiliser Pool.

(d) Since the Kharif, 1973 season (Feb.-July) is already over, no fertilizer will now be supplied to the State, against the Kharif 1973 requirements. However, the requirements of fertilisers of the State, for Rabi 1973-74 have already been assessed in the West Zonal Conference held at Bombay on July 26 and July 27, 1973 and efforts will be made to ensure that the fertiliser requirements of the States for the season are fully met.

National Highways in Maharashtra

3676. SHRI ANNASAHAB GOKHINDE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate highway winding has been created by the Maharashtra State Government to deal exclusively with the National Highways;

(b) the amount of expenditure on the National Highways in Maharashtra during the year 1972-73;

(c) whether the works are continuing in full swing during the current year;

(d) the amount asked for by the State Government for these works; and

(e) whether Government propose to sanction the full amount asked for so that the works may not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M. B. RANA):
(a) Yes, Sir. There is a separate Chief Engineer to deal exclusively with National Highway Works in Maharashtra.

(b) The expenditure incurred during 1972-73 is reported to be as follows:—

	Rs.
Original Works—	1386.00 lakhs
Maintenance & Repairs—	123.90 lakhs

(c) Yes, Sir. The works are reported to be in progress.

(d) The State Government had proposed a provision of Rs. 2100.11 lakhs for Original Works and Rs. 182.34 lakhs for Maintenance and Repairs for 1973-74.

(e) An amount of Rs. 10.50 crores has been provided in the budget for the current year.

Increase in Cropped Area to Meet Target of Grain Production

3677. SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK:
SHRI B. K. DAS-
CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 100 million hectares increase is proposed in crop area to meet the target of 115 million tonnes of grain production by 1973-74;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposal; and

(c) the area proposed to be brought under cultivation State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE