

Revas-Karanja Bridge in Kolaba District, Maharashtra

6681. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has represented that the Revas-Karanja bridge in Kolaba District should be taken under the category of Inter-State Roads and Roads of Economic Interests; and

(b) if so, decision of the Centre Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the Fifth Five-Year Plan proposals for roads of inter-State or economic importance under Centrally sponsored scheme are still in preparatory stage, it is not possible to indicate at present the extent to which any road/bridge project could be included in the Fifth Five-Year Plan within the very limited likely available funds.

Production of Rice Without Fertiliser

6682. SHRI RAGHUNANDANLAL BHATIA:

SUJIT P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a press report in a local Daily of 21st March, 1974 entitled "Rice without fertiliser";

(b) if so, whether the All India Co-ordinated Rice Improvement Pro-

ject has found that rice production in certain lands could be improved without the use of the fertilisers; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Project Coordinator (Rice) has informed that the press report published has been misleading. The main idea is that contrary to misconceptions, the high-yielding varieties of rice perform reasonably well and better than the local varieties if good cultural practices are adopted even without use of fertiliser. Improved management holds the key to high yields. The report clearly brings out the cultural practices which improve crop performance under unfertilised conditions. In the absence of fertiliser, it is often better to grow a high yielding variety than a local tall one, to have better production. However, if fertiliser in quantities less than that recommended is available, it may be advisable to skip basal fertiliser application, adopt good cultural practices such as close spacing, shallow planting of young seedlings, good water management and application of the available fertilisers (one half to one third of the recommended dose) approximately 30 to 35 days after planting.

By this time, the crop would have started to tiller actively would have developed a good root system and would thus make a good use of the added fertiliser. Government is actively promoting through mini-kit demonstrations and other extension methods the practice of efficient fertiliser management. The Cultivation of dwarf varieties of rice is being encouraged, even if fertiliser is not available.