

Perinad and Quilon on the Ernakulam—Quilon Section, the tender of the engine and 11 wagons derailed. No one was injured. The approximate cost of damages to Railway Property has been assessed at Rs. 16,700/-.

**Nedumangadu-Shorlakode connecting Road**

**3512. Shri M. K. Kumaran:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation regarding the construction of a road connecting Nedumangadu (Kerala) with Shorlakode (Madras);

(b) if so, whether it has been considered;

(c) whether it is fact that five miles of the proposed road has been constructed;

(d) whether Government have realised the importance of the proposed road for inter-State communication; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to take in hand the work of construction of this road?

**The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) to (e). There is already an existing road connecting Nedumangadu in Kerala with Shorlakode in Madras. A grant-in-aid of Rs. 2.25 lakhs was sanctioned to meet 75% of the cost of the improvement of miles 1-5 of the road from Nedumangadu under the Central Aid Programme of State roads of inter-State or economic importance approved in the First Five Year Plan. According to available information, the work is in advanced stage of progress. Requests have now been received from the Governments of Kerala and Madras for a grant-in-aid for the improvement of certain further sections of the road under the Third Five Year Plan. The matter is being examined.

**Loan for Coconut Growers in Kerala**

**3513. Shri M. K. Kumaran:** Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala have approached the Reserve Bank and Government of India for long term loans to the coconut growers in the State; and

(b) if so, what has been done in regard to it?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra):** (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala approached the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India for providing assistance to the State Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank for issuing special long term loan to cultivators for the cultivation of plantation crops including coconuts.

(b) So far a scheme for financing small rubber cultivators through the Kerala Central Land Mortgage Banks has been finalized and the Reserve Bank has agreed to provide 75% of the funds required for bringing 20 thousand acres under rubber cultivation during the first year of the scheme. A proposal to set up an Agricultural Development Finance Corporation for financing agricultural development by issue of medium and long-term loans is under consideration of the Govt. of India. It is expected that this Corporation when set up will be able to provide assistance for cultivation of plantation crops such as coconut on the same lines as the Reserve Bank is now providing assistance for rubber plantations.

**Baranagore Municipality, West Bengal**

**3514. Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants have been made to the Baranagore Municipality, West Bengal;