

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this respect?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shri Sham Nath): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The equipment has been ordered and is expected to be received during the second half of 1963-64.

A.I.R. Stations

1348. Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent annually on songs, dramas and dialogues at each A.I.R. Station in India since 1958-59;

(b) the total amount paid for dearness allowance and travelling allowance to participants during the same period; and

(c) the number of Artists at present on the list of each A.I.R. Station?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shri Sham Nath): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Ropeway at Banihal Cart Road in J&K

1349. { Shri Abdul Ghani Goni:
Shri Gopal Datt Mengi:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the steps taken so far towards the construction of a Ropeway the Scheme of which was under the active consideration of the Government of India on Banihal Cart Road in Jammu & Kashmir State?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): By Banihal Cart Road, the honourable member is presumably referring to Jammu-Srinagar Road, the National Highway No. 1A. If so, no Scheme for construction of a Ropeway over Banihal is under consideration

Traffic on Banihal Cart Road in J&K

1350. { Shri Abdul Ghani Goni:
Shri Gopal Datt Mengi:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a very heavy traffic on Banihal Cart Road connecting Jammu and Srinagar and there are many accidents on this Road; and

(b) the steps being taken to improve the same and avoid accidents?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): a) Presumably, the honourable member is referring to Jammu-Srinagar road i.e. National Highway No. 1A. If so, there is heavy traffic on this road. Accidents also occur on this road from time to time. The details of road accidents are not available.

(b) A programme for improvement of this National Highway over a period of three years has been drawn up and works are in progress. These include widening of the road, strengthening its surface, replacement & renovation of bridges, improvement of drainage, and stabilisation of hill sides.

राइफल

१३५१. श्री कछवाय : क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश में ३०३ राइफलों के स्थान पर किसी अन्य प्रकार की राइफलों प्रयोग में लाने का विचार है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब ?

प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बा० रा० कन्हान) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) देशीय निर्माण तथा मित्र विदेशों से आयात के आधारे पर, ऐसा प्रगतिशीलता से किया जाएगा।