

the Central Government to include the construction of an independent Road Bridge across the Balligattam River in the scheme for "Roads of Inter-State and Economic Importance" and also for allotment of funds;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Railway-cum-road bridge will be closed for the strengthening of the girders for more than one year; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to relieve the hardships now confronted by the public in this sector of road transport?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) and (b). Yes. The question of giving grant-in-aid for this work during the Fourth Plan is under consideration.

(c) and (d). Yes, the proposal of strengthening the girders would necessitate the diversion of road traffic on the bridge for a period of one year or so. The State Government have been asked to reopen the ferry-service to divert the traffic.

Neendakara Bridge

335. Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether the test loading of the wells of the Neendakara bridge has been satisfactorily completed;

(b) if so, whether orders have been given to proceed with the concreting;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the number of design details pending with Government in connection with this bridge?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) to (c) Load testing of one well under pier No. P-II has been completed, but the result of this one test is not considered conclusive. Therefore, instructions have been given for one more well to be load-tested in order to

assess the likely variation in settlement of different wells. Orders have not yet been given to proceed with the concreting, as these will depend on the conclusions to be drawn from the results of load tests.

(d) The designs of bearings, pier caps, superstructure as well as of the vertical curve in the decking, are pending with the Government of India. These designs may need modifications in the light of the results of loading tests which are being conducted.

Cold Storage in Delhi

336. Shri Sharda Nand:

Shri J. B. Singh:

Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:

Shri Ranjit Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture, be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cold storages in Delhi are being misused by traders to hoard fruits and vegetables with a view to create an artificial scarcity and raising prices;

(b) if so, the action taken against such traders?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ezhumali (Kerala) as a Tourist Centre

337. Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Shri P. Ramaswami:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any officer visited Ezhumali, Cannanore District to explore the possibilities of developing it as a tourist centre;

(b) if so, with what results;