

Shillong-Jowai-Badarpur Road

873. Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare Shillong-Jowai-Badarpur Road as a National Highway;

(b) the amount spent so far in the construction of this road and the amount to be spent to complete it; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the amount spent by the Assam P.W.D. on the various phases of this road has not so far been sanctioned?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. B. V. Rao): (a) and (b). The Shillong-Jowai-Badarpur road forms part of the Shillong-Agartala road, which is a State road lying partly in Assam and partly in Tripura. Proposals have been made from time to time for the declaration of this road as a National Highway. It has, however, not been possible to accept those proposals so far due to financial limitations. In order, however, to meet the needs of traffic, the Government of India are aiding the development of the missing link in the road from Jowai (Passi) to Badarpur in Assam. This work is estimated to cost Rs. 2.22 crores. Out of this, a sum of about Rs. 1.50 crores was spent upto 31st March, 1966 and a further sum of Rs. 6 lakhs has been allotted for 1966-67. With the balance of Rs. 66 lakhs, the work envisaged on this road is expected to be completed.

(c) The State Government have sent no intimation to this Ministry about any amounts spent by them on the various phases of this road. They have, however, sent some estimates for additional improvement of the entire road from Shillong to Churai-bari in Assam, sanction to which awaits a decision on the question, whether any other similar improvement works in other States are also considered essential and inescapable in the present context of the need

for economy. This matter is being examined.

Tourists in Kashmir

874. Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda: Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state the special facilities that are being provided to the tourists visiting Kashmir this season?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karam Singh): The additional facilities which are being provided by the State Government for tourists visiting Kashmir this season are:—

- (a) Provision of additional accommodation at Kud, Batote, Banihal, Pahalgam, Srinagar, Gulmarg and Yusmarg. The accommodation thus available will be thirty percent more over last year.
- (b) Transport facilities on Pathankot-Srinagar route are being almost doubled.
- (c) The water supply in Gulmarg, Vaishnodevi, Patnitop and Sanasar has been considerably supplemented.
- (d) The Charchinari Island in Dal Lake has been developed for providing entertainment to visitors. Facilities such as a cafeteria, sunbathing, surfing, swimming and other aquatic sports will now be available in Charchinari.
- (e) By September this year 150 rooms are likely to be added to the existing hotel accommodation.
- (f) Construction of an all-weather skating rink in Srinagar is being started immediately.

The above facilities are in addition to the normal facility of concessional rail-cum-road tickets valid for April—October period which is given every year, and additional scheduled and