

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No new decision has been taken by the Central Government on the teaching of languages at the school stage.

BYE-PASS ROAD TO MADURAI-DHANUSHKODI HIGHWAY

3984. SHRI KIRUTINAN : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that lands have been acquired near Manamadurai and Parthananoor in Ramnad District (Madras State) to construct bye-pass Roads to the Madurai-Dhanushkodi National Highway;

(b) whether the acquisition proceedings are over; and

(c) if so, when the work will be executed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN) :

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The work will be taken up, when requisite funds become available.

BRIDGE AT PAMBAN, MADRAS STATE

3985. SHRI KIRUTINAN : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to construct a road-cum-rail bridge at Pamban in Madras State;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any direction to the State Government on this matter; and

(c) if so, the stage of the proposal and the estimated cost of the scheme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

JUDGES IN ORISSA HIGH COURT

3986. SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of judges now working in the Orissa High Court is considered inadequate by the said High Court; and

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of judges in view of the increasing number of cases and the pendency of large number of election cases in addition to the cases already pending ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal to increase the strength of Judges in the Orissa High Court by one more permanent Judge is presently under consideration.

KANDLA PORT

3987. SHRI D. R. PARMAR : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in the constructional work of Kandla Port right from its foundation to its completion, the labourers engaged were mostly displaced Harijans from West Pakistan;

(b) whether it is a fact that after completion of the port works these labourers are not being given some other labour work in the Port and thereby they are now jobless; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to get them employed in Port labour works ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO) : (a) to (c). The Major Harbour Works at Kandla were done through contractors. The labour employed by these contractors included Harijans from West Pakistan. After completion of the works in 1961, the contractors disbanded their labour force, including Harijan labour, by stages. The Kandla Port Trust are not undertaking any major construction work departmentally at present. However, about 1,900 Harijan labourers employed by various agencies including the Kandla Port Trust are currently engaged in a variety of port operations within the Dock area. No additional labour is required for regular port operations for the present.

GEOGRAPHY IN DELHI SCHOOLS

3988. SHRI ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi under the Delhi Administration Geography is not allowed to be taken as a subject for study; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?