

received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Sethusamudram Project is proposed to be given a high priority in Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(d) when the preliminary survey will be finalised?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). In May 1963, the Government of Madras submitted to the Government of India a revised estimate for the Sethusamudram project. This was based on the requirements of vessels upto 26 feet draft. Recently, they have submitted another revised estimate providing for a canal which can take vessels of 30 feet in consideration of the fact that the Tuticorin Port will take such ships. The Madras Government has estimated the cost at Rs. 15.50 crores for the earlier one and at Rs. 21.72 crores for the later one. The estimates are under examination by the technical officers of the Department of Transport.

(c) The fourth Five Year Plan has not yet been drawn up. It is not possible to indicate at this stage what items will be included in it, or the priorities for items which may be included in the Fourth Plan.

(d) Most of the investigations have been completed. Land Survey on either side of the canal alignment remains to be carried out by the Survey of India. The necessary request to that Department has been made.

Telegraph and Public Call Offices in Punjab

1009. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public call offices and telegraph office- which were sanctioned in the Punjab State during the Second Plan and the first two years of Third Plan with the names of places;

(b) how many of them have started functioning with the names of places; and

(c) the causes of delay in setting up the others and when they are expected to function?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) and (b). As in statements laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1577/63].

(c) Delay in carrying out the work is due to shortage of line and wire materials and the department's commitments in connections with the emergency. These stations are expected to be opened by the end of the year.

Co-operative Experts from Sweden and Norway

1010. Shri S. B. Patil: Will the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that efforts were being made to secure the services of the co-operative experts from Sweden and Norway to assist in the training of Indian Managerial personnel in consumer co-operative institutions; and

(b) if so, the nature of the assistance and whether they have agreed to assist the Indian personnel in this regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The International Co-operative Alliance has been approached to make available three high level experts for the proposed Central Co-operative Management Institute and 4 teams consisting of 3 experts each to work in an advisory capacity for consumers co-operatives in the city of Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi where