

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A programme of works costing Rs. 153 lakhs with an expenditure ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs has been approved for the improvement of this National Highway in the Third Five Year Plan period.

(c) As the works were sanctioned recently, no expenditure has so far been reported. Expenditure to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs, however, is likely to be incurred during the remaining period of the current Plan.

#### **Postal Ballots at General Elections**

**162. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain officers and men of the Indian Merchant Navy represented some time back to the Chief Election Commissioner that facilities should be given to them for sending in postal ballots at the general elections; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the matter?

**The Minister of Law and Social Security (Shri A. K. Sen):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Election Commission is of the view that a mere extension of postal ballot facilities to our merchant seamen would not be sufficient, even if it were practicable. Further, such extension is not possible without attracting claims for similar facilities from the other classes of persons similarly situated, for instance, Railwaymen, R.M.S. travelling staff, Airlines staff, etc. who are more numerous and are not given this privilege.

#### **Development of Cooperative Sector**

**163. Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent various States have been able to utilise the plan

financial provision and achieve the physical targets, year-wise, in Third Five Year Plan on the development of cooperative sector;

(b) the impact of agricultural programme under Third Five Year Plan on the food production of each State; and

(c) the estimated and actual increase in agricultural food output?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy):** (a) A statement showing the utilisation of financial provision during the first three years of the Third Plan is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT-3012/64]. Information on the achievement of physical targets included in the Plan is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). Although the inputs in Agriculture e.g., consumption of chemical fertilisers, area under minor irrigation etc. are showing a steady increase from year to year, production of foodgrains during the last four years has fluctuated between 78 and 81 million tonnes. The main factor responsible for this situation has been adverse weather, affecting production in a country where less than one-fifth of the cropped area has assured irrigation facilities. A statement showing the production of foodgrains, Statewise, during the years 196-61 to 1963-64 is enclosed.

**12.00 hrs.**

#### **Re. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT**

**UNAUTHORISED LANDING OF TWO FOREIGNERS IN A PLAN AT MURUD**

**Mr. Speaker:** I had held over this Adjournment Motion till today. I refer to the motion tabled by Shri Nath Pai. Now, is Mr. Hathi here?