

- (iv) Amenities to passengers and employees—Rs. 10 lakhs

Rs. 105 lakhs

Rice Mills in Public Sector

1161. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made up-to-date in the establishment of new types of rice mills in the public sector; and

(b) by what time they are likely to start functioning?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) The Cooperative rice mills at Thiruvavur (Madras), Mandya (Mysore), Memari (West Bengal) and Raipur (Madhya Pradesh) have already been installed and the trial running is in progress. The work relating to the provision of modern facilities, such as parboiling unit, dryer and silos for these mills, is also in progress. The installation work of the mill at Bikramganj (Bihar) has started and will be completed shortly. The construction work at Tadepalligudem (Andhra Pradesh) is nearing completion and the installation work is to start shortly.

(b) All the mills are expected to start functioning by January, 1966 except in respect of silo storage.

Agartala-Assam Road

1162. Shri Biren Dutta:
Shri N. R. Laskar:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agartala-Assam road has been badly damaged due to heavy pressure on it as a result of suspension of all traffic via Pakistan;

(b) whether it requires to be widened immediately; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the road?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). Information supplied by the Tripura Public Works Department shows that the pressure on this road increased due to the blocking of the cross-rail traffic via Pakistan. No abnormal damage is, however, reported to have been done to the road on this account. The Government of India have, however, been separately considering a proposal to improve the Shillong-Agartala road further, including the widening of its carriageway wherever necessary, to meet the needs of the area and have already formulated a scheme for this purpose. The proposed further improvement work will be taken in hand as soon as a final decision on the aforesaid scheme has been taken

Calcutta-Agartala Freighter Service

1163. Shri Biren Dutta: Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any private air company is carrying goods from Calcutta to Agartala;

(b) if so, the name of the company;

(c) the freight charges of cargo levied by the company; and

(d) the time taken to complete the delivery of the cargo?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Roads in Tripura

1164. Shri N. R. Laskar: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made towards the construction of the Silchar-Imphal, Silchar-Ijal and Passi-Badarpur roads and also to make them all-weather roads;

(b) whether there is a proposal under consideration for declaring Agartala-Shillong road as a National Highway; and

(c) whether there is also any proposal to construct a road bridge over the river Barak on this road, and, if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6220/65].

Chelari Aerodrome

1166. Shri Pottakkatt:
Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri Mohammed Koya:

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether any offer has been received from the Birlas agreeing to place the Chelari Aerodrome near Calicut for providing regular Dakota service; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to accept the offer?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. This airstrip in its present condition is not suitable for the scheduled operations of I.A.C. However, this offer has been kept in view while surveying for suitable sites for an airport for Calicut.

Private Forests in Kerala

1167. Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri Pottakkatt:

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

(a) the progress made to acquire the private forests in the Malabar region of Kerala;

(b) the steps taken to prevent unauthorised cutting of timber; and

(c) the number of prosecutions launched during the last five years under the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha when received.

Milk Plant

1163. Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri Rajeshwar Patel:
Shri E. Barua:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

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

(a) whether Government have signed an agreement with the UNICEF for the setting up of a milk plant in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the project report is likely to be ready?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The Government of India have signed a Plan of Operations in respect of the Ludhiana Milk Conservation Project on October 27, 1965.

(b) Under this project, a Milk Conservation Plant will be established at Ludhiana to produce milk, milk-powder, ghee, butter and casein. The development will take place in phases. UNICEF has already allocated \$175,000 out of their commitment of \$800,000. It will allocate further sums as and when required. The total cost to the Government of Punjab, for this project is estimated at approx. Rs. 1.05 crores.

(c) Since the plan of operations has already been signed, the question of a project report does not arise.

Flying Clubs in M.P.

1169. Shri Lakshmi Bhawanil: Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the establishment of Flying