

On examination it was found that reducing the time factor would mean that seasonal fluctuation in the price index would also be reflected in the revision of Dearness Allowance rates, while reduction of the number-of-points factor would necessitate too frequent revision which had to be ruled out on budgetary and administrative considerations. The State Governments were also consulted as any modification of the formula would have had repercussions on the policies followed by them in respect of their employees. Most State Governments were opposed to the present formula being changed. In these circumstances, Government took the view that no change in the existing formula of the Second Pay Commission was feasible.

Bridge over River Hooghly

316. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) how far the proposal to construct a new road bridge across the river Hooghly to connect Calcutta with Howrah has proceeded;

(b) whether any plan and estimate have been prepared; and

(c) who will be entrusted with the work?

The Minister of Planning (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) Studies on various aspects of engineering design of the project are in progress.

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

Transport in Eastern Region

317. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the further progress made by the Joint Technical Group on Transport Planning in the Eastern Region of India;

(b) whether in the survey work undertaken by the Group, any expert assistance from the concerned State Governments was asked for; and

(c) whether the data collected by the Haldia Port authorities will also be taken into consideration?

The Minister of Planning (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) The transport survey of the Eastern Region is being conducted in two phases: study under Phase A will involve assessment of the available capacities on different transport media and the extent of utilisation of these capacities for the period ending 1965-68. The study under Phase B involves assessment of future transportation requirements of the region, keeping in view its potential economic development over a period of 10 to 15 years and the transport facilities required to sustain such development. Factual data under Phase A has been collected and is being analysed. The issues involved in the methodology for Phase B have also been considered in detail and work has been initiated on collection of data under Phase B.

(b) The survey is being conducted by a special Survey Unit set up in Calcutta under the auspices of the Joint Technical Group for Transport Planning, an organisation established jointly by the Planning Commission, Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Transport, Aviation, Shipping & Tourism. The International Bank for Reconstruction & Development has deputed a team of five specialists to work as part of the Survey Unit. The State Governments of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa are collaborating in the Survey and have constituted technical cells to work with the Unit.