

tion. The Government would take all possible measures in this regard and seriously consider any new suggestion put forward by the hon. Member to increase the production of pulses. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, irrespective of the fact whether the Hon. Minister replied to the question or not, he is answering better than his senior colleague. We are very happy about it.

The *dal* and edible oil are the basic requisites for common man's consumption and the prices of *dal* and pulses and edible oil are going too high, they are going out of the reach of the common man. Similarly, when it comes to the question of remunerative prices to the farmers, the fluctuation is so much that sometimes the prices of pulses come down from Rs. 800 to Rs. 400 or so. One of the reasons being indiscriminate import of pulses sometimes whereby the farmers are getting affected. So, both the consumers and the farmers are affected.

I would like to know whether hon. Minister will put it to the Cabinet to include the *dal* varieties also to be supplied through public distribution system so that common man can get at the fair price.

No.2, whether he will think of gearing the market machinery in such a manner that the prices will not fluctuate from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 400 so that the farmers will get the right price and they are encouraged to produce enough pulses and oilseeds in the country.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Government will consider the hon. Member's suggestion to sell these commodities through public distribution system. Right now, it is not directly related to the Department of Agriculture. It is related to the Civil Supply and Food Department. However, I would like to say that this is a good suggestion and I will take up the matter with the concerned depart-

ment in the light of the suggestion of the hon. Member.

Declaration of Roads as National Highways in Bihar

*678. SHRI RAJ MANGAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the roads in Bihar for which Government of Bihar has urged Union Government for declaring as National Highways; and

(b) the action taken in this regard?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) During the 7th Plan (1985-90), the Government of Bihar proposed the following roads for being declared as National Highways, viz

- i) Link Road from Mokameh to Farakka;
- ii) Govindpur (NH-2)- Jamtara-Hansdiha-Bhagalpur-Punchasal-Wasaharsa-Birpur;
- iii) Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur-Sitamari-Bhitha More;
- iv) Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Forbesganj-Purnea;
- v) Korha (NH 31)-Katihar-Pranpur-Maldah-(NH 34); and
- vi) Aurangabad-Pandavpur-Gorhata-Maha (M.P. Border)-Ambikapur-Bilaspur-Raipur (NH.6)

However, owing to financial stringency

and other priority considerations, it has not been possible to declare any new National Highway in Bihar State in 7th Plan. The State Government has also proposed inclusion of Arrah-Sasaram road in the National Highway network during the 8th Plan. The inclusion of additional roads in the National Highway grid will depend upon the availability of resources and inter-se priorities among various proposals received from the different States.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ MANGAL MISHRA: All these roads pass along the border with Bangladesh and Nepal. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether these roads are important or not from the defence point of view?

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: All roads are important, particularly the roads bordering frontier regions. Since 1962, after the Chinese aggression, this was given special priority and special attention. That is why, the average km. length in Bihar itself has gone up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ MANGAL MISHRA: I would like to know whether any proposal was submitted to the Centre by the State Government to declare all these eight roads as National Highways? I would also like to know roadwise amount of money provided for these roads during the Seventh Plan period from 1985 to 1990. I would also like to know the time by which these roads would be completed.

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, there are 9 numbers of National Highways which are crossing the State of Bihar with an aggregate length of 2117 kms, out of a total of 33,612 kms. of national highway system. If I may say so—it is not that I am satisfied—but

its average comes to about 12 kms. per 1,000 sq. kms of National Highway road length. It is more than the national average of 10 and there are many other States which are denied this. Therefore, I have explained nine numbers and some of the most important national highways go through Bihar, Delhi-Calcutta with about 392 KM, Dhule-Calcutta, Ohas-Talchar Jn (NH-42), Barauni-Lucknow, Mohania-Bhaktiarpur, NH-2, Barhi-Amingaon, Gobindpur-Jamshedpur, Barhi-Baharagora etc. Under different plans, allotments have been made to Bihar but, as I have explained in the statement laid on the Table of the House, during the Seventh Plan, the Government of Bihar has proposed six roads for inclusion. Due to financial stringency and other considerations, it was not possible to declare any new national highway during the Seventh Plan and we are certainly aware of the situation in Bihar and also of the high density traffic areas and we are looking into this problem and after the Eighth Plan is finalised only, we can give a clear picture as to which State can get which road.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the road which runs between Govindpur and Birpur and connects Northern Highway to Southern Highway was included in the Seventh Plan. No action has so been taken in this regard. Secondly, no work has been started in respect of Highway which runs between Mokamah and Farakka. Again I would like to know the time by which work would begin on all these roads of Bihar which have been declared National Highways?

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: I have already explained this in the Statement that has been said. The hon. Member referred to the national highway No. 2 Janatara-Hansidiha-Bhagalpur-Panchalsal-Wasaharsa-Birpur Road. As far as the six roads are concerned, I have already admitted that it has been forwarded by the Government of

Bihar and as I have explained, due to constraint of resources, it could not be taken up during the Seventh Plan and the Eighth Plan is being finalised and again we shall have discussions with the Bihar State Government and as per the priorities and suggestions from hon. Members, we shall take it up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the G.T. Road constructed by Sher Shah Suri Starts from Peshawar and goes upto Sonarganj of Calcutta. The historic city of Sasaram, that lies en route was sparsely populated earlier but today it has a population of about two lakhs. One hundred vehicles pass through G.T. Road every minute and it takes a toll of at least one person daily in accidents. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to widen the G.T. Road running through the heart of Sasaram city and construct the divider and the footpaths along this road? The Government of Bihar has also submitted a proposal in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: We shall examine all the suggestions of the Member.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANJAY LAL: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether highway No. 28 connecting Gandhi bridge of Patna with Muzaffarpur will be declared a National Highway in view of the heavy vehicular traffic on it?

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: I have already explained that the high density traffic areas will be subjected to a critical review and will be finalised in 8th Plan. We shall certainly look into it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YUVRAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we

look at Sl. No. (v) of the reply given by the Government, we find that the Korha (N.H.31) and Katihar-Pranpur-Maldah N.H. (34) have been taken up in the Seventh Five Year Plan whereas these projects were scheduled to be completed during 1985-90.

I would like to know the progress made with regard to construction of bridges etc. on the roads approved for conversion into National Highways and the amount of funds provided by the Central Government for this purpose?

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Sir, these were the suggestions of the Bihar Government for inclusion as national highways. As I have already explained, due to constraint of resources, they could not be taken up. Again it will be reviewed at the time of the Eighth Plan. We shall take them into account. (*Interruptions*)

Supply of Speed Boats to Orissa

*680. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUHDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa Government has requested the Union Government to arrange for supply of four speed boats for the implementation of Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1982;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c). In response to a communication from Ministry of Agriculture calling for project proposal for exploring the possibility of obtaining patrol boats for enforcing Marine Fishing Regulation Act in maritime States under the Japanese Grant in Aid in 1989-90,