

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) The National Commission on Agriculture has submitted its Interim Report on Modernising Irrigation Systems and Integrated Development of Command Areas.

(b) A summary of the recommendations in this Interim Report is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4798/73.]

(c) The recommendations of the Commission are under examination.

Work on West Coast Road

*734. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT.

SHRI S L PEJE

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) when the work on the West Coast Road was started and when it is expected to be completed,

(b) how much work has been done so far and what is the amount spent thereon so far, and

(c) whether work on the portion of the road between Sanganeshwar and Wandri in Ratnagiri District has not still been commenced?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR)

(a) and (b) The West Coast Road, which has been declared as National Highway No. 17 with effect from 8th March, 1972, passes through the States of Maharashtra, Mysore, Kerala and the Union Territory of Goa. The work on this road was started originally about 15 years back as part of programme of Centrally-aid Roads of Inter-State and Economic Importance.

The statement laid on the Table of the House gives the Statewise information about the work done on the road so far against the original programme. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4799/73]. On its having been declared as National Highway, the road is proposed to be further improved to single-lane National Highway standard as part of the 4th Plan programme, for which inventorisation of deficiencies and formulation of improvement proposals is in hand. The said improvement is likely to be achieved by the close of the 5th Plan period

(c) Work on the construction of the section from Sanganeshwar to Wandri in Ratnagiri District in Maharashtra had been taken up initially under the earlier programme of Centrally-aided Roads of Inter-State and Economic Importance. The same is not yet complete and is now to be completed under National Highway Development Programme and shall be pursued accordingly

Hospitals in Andaman and Nicobar Islands short of medicines

*735. SHRI R. V. BADE. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Hospitals of far-flung Islands of Andaman and Nicobar are short of medicines of daily use because of their non-supply by Government, and

(b) what steps Government are going to take to keep the Hospitals well equipped?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR). (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.