

resources for implementing the project has been discussed with the State Government and it is hoped that satisfactory arrangements will be made for financing the project.

Plan to promote Wild Life Tourism during Fourth Plan

*833. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to promote wild life tourism in the country during the Fourth Five Year Plan ; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the financial outlay involved in the implementation of the plan ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries *i.e.* Corbett National Park (Uttar Pradesh), Kanha National Park (Madhya Pradesh), Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary (Assam), Gir Wild Life Sanctuary (Gujarat), Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary (Kerala) have been selected for wild life tourism development. In the first phase the emphasis is on providing tourist accommodation and transport facilities and undertaking other related basic activities for wild life tourism development in cooperation with the State Governments concerned. An amount of Rs. 50 lakhs has been provided for the purpose.

Effect of Hijacking of Planes on Number of Tourists visiting India

*834. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has any apprehension of less number of tourists visiting India on account of general fear of hijacking of planes ;

(b) if so, whether he has assessed the situation or thought of any remedial measures/solutions ; and

(c) whether some foreign travel agencies have also conveyed him the same ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Completion of Over-head Bridge near Safdarjang Airport

*835. SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the date by which the over-head bridge near Safdarjang airport in New Delhi is likely to be completed ;

(b) which Department is responsible for co-ordinating the sanction and execution of the project ;

(c) the role of the Shipping and Transport Ministry in this project ;

(d) the dates on which the various Departments processed the papers relating to this project ; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to expedite the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) :

(a) to (e). The Ministry of Health and Family Planning and Works, Housing and Urban Development (Department of Health) is responsible for co-ordination and sanction of the project. The execution of the project is to be carried out by the New Delhi Municipal Committee. The role of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport is to render technical advice as and when requested by the Department of Health and the New Delhi Municipal Committee. On 21.10.69, the Ministry of Shipping and Transport furnished technical advice to the Ministry of Health and Family Planning and Works, Housing and Urban Development on the revised estimate for the project. That Ministry accorded administrative approval to the project on 4.4.1970. On 1.5.70, the New Delhi Municipal Committee approved the estimate. On 28.6.70, that Committee issued notice in the press for inviting tenders which were received and opened on 25.9.1970. On 20.11.70, the Committee referred the tenders to the Ministry of Shipping and Transport for technical scrutiny regarding acceptability of the designs submitted by the tenderers.

Technical aspects of designs submitted by various tenderers are under examination. In view of the fact that the expenditure sanction has yet to be issued, and various issues* have yet to be settled with a number of authorities, it is premature to indicate the expected date of completion of the over-bridge.

Proposal to Impose a 25 Percent Freight Surcharge on Cargo loaded at Indian Ports to London

*836 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state ,

(a) whether India Pakistan Conference, London has proposed to impose a 25 percent freight surcharge on cargo loaded at Indian ports for shipments to the ports of London ;

(b) if so, the justification for imposing the proposed surcharge ;

(c) whether this will adversely effect India's export trade ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that the proposed surcharge is withdrawn by the Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH):

(a) India Pakistan Conference has imposed a temporary surcharge of 25% in respect of vessels commencing to load cargo from London and for London with effect from 30-11-19 0.

(b) The reason advanced by the Conference is that their vessels are subjected to heavy delays consequent upon shortage of port labour as a result of certain re organisation in the deployment of labour at Tilbury Docks in London due to the implementation of the Delvin Committee's recommendations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Protests have already been lodged with the Conference against this surcharge directly by Shippers. The High Commission has also been advised to put pressure on the Port of London Authority to accede to the Conference request for additional labour force in Tilbury Docks or to rescind temporarily the orders to restrict India-Pakistan Conference ships to Tilbury Docks till the Delvin Plan is implemented and their reactions are awaited. Efforts are also being

made to prevail upon the Conference to withdraw the surcharge.

Payment of L. I. C. Premium by Public Undertakings

*837. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation, there is a continuous default in the payments of premia collected from the public sector undertakings; municipalities and panchayat samitis as reported in the Hindu dated the 20th October, 1970 ;

(b) whether in one instance a public sector-undertaking deducted the premia from the employees salary but did not pass it on to the Life Insurance Corporation ;

(c) whether the dues of the public sector undertakings amount to about Rs. 4.0 crores; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). The Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation of India had stated that several public sector undertakings had delayed unduly payment of insurance premiums due under policies of general insurance taken out by them. He had also referred to a different matter, namely delay on the part of some public bodies like panchayats in remitting to the L.I.C. the premiums deducted by them from the salaries of their employees on account of life insurance policies taken out by the employees under Salary Savings Schemes.

(c) The general insurance premium outstanding from the public sector undertakings on 31.3.70 was about Rs. 4 crores.

(d) So far as general insurance premiums due from public sector undertakings are concerned, Government recently issued a circular to all State Governments and Ministries of the Central Government requesting them to instruct all concerned urgently to clear the arrears and also to pay premiums in future in time. As regards life insurance premiums, collected by the public bod concerned, the L.I.C. is pursuing the matter direct with the bodies concerned.