

1955-56 and 1956-57 to give effect to its policy of decentralisation in the administration;

(b) what additional powers have been delegated and are proposed to be delegated to the officers in the field entrusted with the execution of works and projects; and

(c) what paper work in returns and reports has been cut down?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 82.]

Kopilli River Multipurpose Project

*1565. **Shri Liladhar Kotaki:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the results of the preliminary investigations for the Kopilli River multi-purpose project; and

(b) whether Government propose to take up immediately execution of the irrigation part of the project in view of urgency to increase food production?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) A tentative multi-purpose Project on Kopilli River was outlined, which was estimated to yield 1,25,000 KW of power and irrigation benefits for about 2.52 lakh acres and also flood protection. Detailed investigations are now in progress.

(b) The feasibility of the project will be known only after the investigations have been completed and a project report prepared.

Porbander-Rajkot National Highway

*1566. **Shri Nathavani:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the construction of the National High-

way No. 8-B between Porbander and Rajkot;

(b) the approximate cost that will be incurred in the construction of the above section; and

(c) how long will it take to construct it?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The road already exists. A provision of Rs. 103 lakhs has, however, been made in the current Five Year Plan for the improvement of certain sections to the required standards and for providing two missing bridges across the rivers Minsar and Vadai. Estimates totalling Rs. 42.72 lakhs for the construction of the bridge across Minsar and other works of improvement have been sanctioned by the Government of India. Most of these works are in progress. Subject to availability of funds all works are expected to be completed during the current plan period.

Safety of Rail Tracks

*1567. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has proposed to all the State Governments that a Standing Committee of Engineers should be set up in each State to keep under constant review matters affecting the safety of railway track and bridges against floods and heavy rains; and

(b) if so, what progress has been made so far?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committees have been formed in the States of Bombay, Bihar, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal and in the remaining States, the Committees are in the process of formation.