

(g) whether the possibility of converting railway bridges into combined road-rail bridges will be explored in places where the road runs parallel to the railway line, as in the case of the Baliapatam rail bridge near Cannanore, recently converted into a road-rail bridge?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) National Highways 3, 4 and 7 connect Bombay with Cape Comorin via Hubli, Bangalore and Madura. Presumably the hon. Member refers to the scheme for constructing an alternative road, called the West Coast Road, branching off from Hubli and running via Mangalore and Trichur. This is not included in the present provisional N.H. scheme but centrally-aided construction work is in progress on it.

(b) A statement showing the works in progress or proposed to be undertaken shortly is laid on the Table. [See Appendix IV, annexure No 41].

(c) to (f). It may take ten to fifteen years to complete a fully bridged road and this will cost about five crores of rupees.

(g) Yes.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether any scheme was formerly investigated connecting Hubli with the Cape Comorin through the West Coast, and whether it is being dropped this year?

Shri Satish Chandra : I have just said that the work has started and is in progress. I am speaking about that very road which the hon. Member has in mind.

Shri Velayudhan: Is it a national highway?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Parliamentary Secretary has just stated that it is not. The hon. Member was perhaps not attentive when the reply was given. I heard in the reply to the main question itself that it is not a national highway.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether repeated representations are being received by Government from the people of the West Coast that a plan for constructing such a road is necessary on the West Coast?

Shri Satish Chandra: Sir, I have just stated that the work on the said road is in progress.

Shri Nambiar: The hon. the Parliamentary Secretary has not answered my question.

Mr. Speaker: The question has been fully answered. The hon. Member would have got the answer if he had taken care to understand the reply. It has just been stated that the road is under construction with some amount of aid and help. It is therefore not exactly a national highway.

Shri Nambiar: But the road is not being constructed. It may take fifteen years.

Shri Satish Chandra: If the hon. Member is not convinced, I can't help it.

Shri Achuthan: May I know how the cost is borne by the Central Government for the above plan?

Shri Satish Chandra: Under the Federal Financial Integration Scheme, the entire cost for the development and maintenance of that portion of the road which lies in Travancore-Cochin State is to be borne by the Centre while it is to be shared half and half between the Centre on one hand and the Bombay and Madras Governments on the other for the respective portions of the road lying in these States.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES

*802. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the amount set apart for the development of fisheries in the Five Year Plan?

(b) Are there any schemes to develop fisheries in India?

(c) If so, where are these schemes to be concentrated?

(d) What are the amounts allotted for each state?

(e) Are there any company or agents to whom the schemes are entrusted, and if so, who are they?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The draft Five Year Plan provides for a total expenditure of Rs. 4.39 crores on the development of fisheries.

(b) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 42].

(e) No. Fisheries schemes are undertaken departmentally, sometimes with the help of fishermen's cooperatives.