

Kerala Government for any additional allocations for the purpose.

Rail-cum-Road Bridge Over Brahmaputra

351. Shri Liladhar Kotoki: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra between Amingaon and Pandu; and

(b) when the bridge is expected to be opened for traffic?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The construction of the foundations and piers of the bridge has been completed. The erection of first seven spans of the bridge has also been completed and that of the eighth span is in progress. About 98 per cent of the approach banks have been completed. Overall progress on the construction of this bridge is 85 per cent.

(b) By the end of 1962.

Wagon Factory at Chakradharpur, Bihar

352. Shri H. C. Soy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme ready to set up a wagon factory at Chakradharpur in Bihar;

(b) if so, the progress made so far to implement the scheme; and

(c) what, if any, are the main difficulties in its implementation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Sukinda-Paradip Express Highway

353. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of the Government of Orissa to build an express highway

from Sukinda-Daitari mines to the port at Paradip;

(b) whether any prior discussion with the Government of India or consultation took place before taking up this project and whether any amount is being given by the Central Government for this project; and

(c) whether Government of India have given any assurance to the Government of Orissa that Paradip would be made a major port during the course of the Third Five Year Plan if this highway is constructed?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and

(b). Some time back, the Government of Orissa submitted a proposal for the construction of an express Highway connecting Sukinda-Daitari mines with the Paradip port as part of the integrated project relating to the development of the Paradip Port and the mining of iron ore in the area. That proposal was, however, in a preliminary stage of consideration. The Government of India are not aware of any decision which the Government of Orissa might have taken since then to build the proposed expressway nor have the Central Government given any funds for this project.

(c) No, Sir. The State Government's proposals for developing Paradip into an all-weather port and exporting iron ore through that port are at present being studied by the Planning Commission in consultation with the Ministries concerned. The provision of suitable facilities for the transport of iron ore from the mines to the port is also being studied as part of the overall proposals.

Out-Agency at Chhapara (M.P.)

354. Shri Wadwa: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the factors necessary for entitling a particular town to have an out-agency on behalf of the Railway; and

(b) whether the Administration of South Eastern Railway have looked

into the claim of Chhapara, a town in Seoni District of Madhya Pradesh, a prominent commercial town in the area for opening an out-agency?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) The factors generally taken into consideration in this connection are the commercial importance of the town, its population, the distance between the town and the nearest rail-head and the possibility of securing a suitable contractor.

(b) Yes, the offer for working the Out-Agency at Chhapara was made to the Madhya Pradesh State Transport Services, but the proposal was dropped as there was no response from them.

The South Eastern Railway is, however, examining the matter afresh.

Discontinuance of Seoni Ganj Siding on S. E. Railway

355. Shri Wadiwa: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Seoni Ganj siding at Railway Station Seoni on Nagpur-Nainpur section of South Eastern Railway has been discontinued with effect from 15th April, 1962;

(b) what are the reasons for discontinuing the siding; and

(c) the figures of amount earned for the years 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961 on account of this siding?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The amount earned on siding charges in 1961 is approximately Rs. 2400. The figures for other years are not readily available and are being compiled.

Import of Foodstuff

356. Shri J. P. Jyotishi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and cost of food-stuffs imported during the year 1961-62;

(b) the quantity and cost of the same purchased by Government from indigenous market;

(c) how much of it and for how much amount has the same been sold to the public during the same year; and

(d) what is the Government stock in balance and the expected deficiency to be met by imports during the year?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) About 3.2 million metric tons of foodgrains costing about Rs. 120 crores.

(b) About 324 thousand metric tons of rice costing about Rs. 15.61 crores.

(c) It is not possible to say how much out of the 1961-62 supplies was sold but the approximate quantities of wheat, rice and other foodgrains issued from Central stocks during the financial year 1961-62 were as follows:—

	(In '000 Metric Tons)
Wheat	2,858
Rice	686
Other foodgrains	34
	—
Total	3,578
	—

The value of the quantity of wheat issued was approximately Rs. 107 crores and that of Milo issued about Rs. 1 crore. It is not possible at this stage to give a correct estimate of the value of the quantity of rice issued from Central stocks, as the issue prices of rice vary from Rs. 16 to Rs. 30 per maund according to the quality of rice.

(d) The Government of India held a reserve stock of about 2.1 million metric tons of foodgrains at the end of March, 1962. Imports during the financial year 1962-63 are expected to be about 4 million metric tons. This