

West Coast Road

968. Shri Imbichilbava: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work for widening the West Coast Road in Kerala has been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the amount allotted for the work, and

(d) the amount so far spent?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The Third Five Year Plan provides for the development of the West Coast road to the standard of a single lane asphalt surface. The work on the portion of the road in the Kerala State is in progress.

The Member is probably referring to the proposal of the Kerala Government to widen the road to two-lane carriageway. Owing to financial limitations, this proposal could not be accepted by the Government of India.

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

Dry Dock at Visakhapatnam

969. Shri Eswara Reddy: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the construction of a 'Dry Dock' at Vishakhapatnam is;

(b) whether the foreign exchange required for this project has been sanctioned; and

(c) when it is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Progress was held up as the Shipyard had been considering the acquisition of a Floating Dock as an alternative to a Graving Dock. After further

consideration, the Yard has been advised to go in for a Graving Dock.

(b) It has been decided that the line of credit from which the project would be financed would be indicated after the tenders have been invited and the names of countries from which the equipment are to be purchased are known to Government.

(c) About 3½ years from the date of starting work on the project.

Bridge on River Godavari at Bhadrachellam

970. Shri Eswara Reddy: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the inordinate delay in approving the design of the road bridge across the river Godavari at Bhadrachellam, Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the design has since been approved;

(c) the amount of grant given by the Central Government for this purpose; and

(d) when the bridge is likely to be completed and open for traffic?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The reasons for the delay in approving the design of the road bridge at Bhadrachellam are as follows:—

(i) Certain changes in the design of foundation for piers and abutments of the bridge, as originally contemplated, were found necessary as per actual site conditions, as the foundations had to be taken much deeper than originally anticipated, in view of the non-availability of hard rock at the designed depths. These alterations could be effected only after carrying out certain tests, with consequent delay in the commencement of the work.

(ii) Tenders for the construction of the bridge were invited in July 1959