

boats, introduction of large fishing trawlers and establishment of ice plants, cold storage and processing plants. The Plan also covers the provision of fishing harbours and ancillary facilities such as refrigerated road and rail transport. Provision has also been made for research and training in operation of mechanized boats, processing and other allied subjects. An important feature of the programme of development of marine fisheries is exploration of deep sea fisheries. The inland fisheries schemes cover reclamation of water areas for fish culture, production and distribution of fish seed, fish breeding by specialized techniques and development of reservoir fishing. Provision has also been made for research and training in inland fisheries.

(c) The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 113 crores. The outlay may be revised taking into consideration the available resources.

Coimbatore-Attappadi-Mannarkad Tribal Area

1513. Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri F. Ramamurthi:
Shri E. K. Nayanar:
Shri Umanath:

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the Coimbatore-Attappadi-Mannarkad Tribal area, Eastern Ghat Road; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in the matter?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) and (b). The Government of Kerala have proposed improvement to the section from KM 0|0 to 52|1 of the Mannarkad-Coimbatore road via Attappadi and Chinnathadagam to be carried out during the Fourth Five Year Plan partly out of the Central Road Fund (Ordinary Reserve). We are, in this regard, collecting further information from the State Government with a view to approve the work out of the Central Road Fund (Ordinary Reserve) on a matching basis.

Prices of Edible Oils

1514. Shri B. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of edible oils have been rising steadily;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to check them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Anasahib Shinde): (a) A statement showing Economic Adviser's Index Numbers of wholesale prices of edible oils (base 1952-53-100) during the period January, 1965 to May 1967, is enclosed. It will be seen therefrom that the Index Number ranged between 254 and 325, the index for the latest week, i.e. 13th May, 1967 being 318.

(b) The main reason so for the high level of prices of edible oils is the shortfall in supplies of oilseeds and oils during 1965-66 and 1966-67.

(c) The steps taken to check rise in prices include tightening of bank advances against oilseeds and oils, regulating transactions in the forward markets, restricting exports and arranging imports of oils and discouraging the use of edible oils for industrial purposes. Efforts are also being made to maximise the internal production of oilseeds.

STATEMENT

Index Number of Wholesale Prices of Edible Oils (1952-53-100)

1966		
	January	253.9
	February	249.1
	March	252.0
	April	275.7
	May	301.5
	June	306.7
	July	309.3
	August	325.4
	September	303.3
	October	294.4
	November	283.7
	December	294.1