

(b) the estimated cost of this plan; and

(c) the measures taken to expedite this scheme and the time by which it will be completed?

**The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao):** (a) and (b). Detailed surveys, trial borings—both on land and in the sea—and tracer studies are being carried out at present. A separate Organisation has been set up with Headquarters at Madras for the purpose. These studies which are expected to be completed by the end of this year are estimated to about Rs. 37 lakhs.

(c) Further action on the Project can be considered only after the technical report is received and examined.

#### Construction of East Coast Road

**2958. Shri Kirutinan:** Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of construction of East Coast Road connecting Madras and Cape Comorin;

(b) the measures taken to expedite this scheme; and

(c) the allocation made, if any, during the Fourth Five Year Plan?

**The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao):** (a) The road in question is a State road. Its development is, therefore, primarily the responsibility of the State Government. In order, however, to assist them in developing this road, the Government of India offered to the State Government in December, 1966, a grant-in-aid up to Rs. 16 lakhs to meet 50 per cent of the cost of constructing a missing link between Mahabalipuram and Marakkanam, the remaining 50 per cent or more being met by the State Government from their own resources. Against this grant, the State Government have sanctioned recently an estimate for a part of this work, amounting to Rs. 10.21 lakhs and have just started this part of the work.

(b) and (c). In view of the position explained above, the questions do not arise.

#### Marketing and Inspection Unit at Nagpur

**2959. Shri George Fernandes: Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether an indefinite hunger strike has been launched by an employee of the Marketing and Inspection Unit Directorate in Nagpur with effect from the 1st June, 1967;

(b) whether the employees of this Directorate have been agitating against the victimisation of the employee; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to resolve the dispute?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde):** (a) A temporary Lower Division Clerk served with a notice terminating his services went on hunger strike. He has since abandoned the hunger strike on 9-6-67.

(b) The Clerks Union, instigated by some outsiders, is reported to have taken part in the agitation, protesting against the termination of the services of the Lower Division Clerk.

(c) The agitation has already been withdrawn.

#### Milk Foods from Soya-Bean

**2960. Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that milk foods have been prepared from the soya-bean with considerable success in China and the United State; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not using vegetable milk to prepare larger quantities of infant food in our country too?