

National Highway No. 17 in Kerala

3416: SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that National Highway No. 17 is one of the poorly maintained National Highways and requires improvement at many places by widening and strengthening or by removing the avoidable curves and bends; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) and (b). It is not correct to say that National Highway No. 17 in Kerala is one of the poorly maintained National Highways. Though this National Highway has suffered extensive damages due to exceptionally heavy rains during the past few monsoons, yet there is no report of traffic being held up due to the damages that have occurred. Allotments for Maintenance and Repairs of National Highways in Kerala have been increasing progressively over the last few years. The deficiency survey carried out on this Road soon after its declaration as National Highway in March, 1972 revealed numerous locations where the curves and grades are sub-standard. However, more serious deficiencies on this National Highway are the unbridged crossings and heavily congested stretches through towns and cities, which are being attended to. Works costing over Rs. 8 crores have already been sanctioned in this regard. The Work of widening and strengthening the road is proposed to be taken up later on.

Import of Polish Ship Engines for Cochin Shipyard

3417. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances that bolted the import of Polish ship engines for Cochin Shipyard;

(b) were the terms offered by "MAN" of West Germany more favourable than of Poland; and

(c) if not, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Ship engines for Ships 002 & 003 under construction at Cochin Shipyard are being imported from Poland.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) M/s. MAN, Augsburg West Germany revised their earlier offers on 9-6-80 and it was DM 2,130,000 (FOB) (Delivery April, 1981) for "A" Version of MAN Engine for Ship 002 and DM 9,345,690 (FOB) (Delivery October, 1981) for "B" Version of MAN Engine for Ship 003. This was also *inter-alia* subject to the condition that the contracts for both engines are signed not later than 30-6-1980. The Polish firm in April, 1980 offered the two SULZER Engines at US \$ 2,493,000 (FOB) (Delivery December 1980) and US \$ 2,508,000 (FOB) (Delivery August/September, 1981) respectively.

Theft of wheat and other essential commodities from trains

3418. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the theft of wheat and other essential commodities from the trains in the month of November, 1980; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) The following steps are being taken to prevent thefts of booked con-