

viz. the Cooperative Store Ltd., Delhi has set up a Department Store in Connaught Circus, New Delhi, with the object of making essential commodities available to the people at reasonable prices.

(b) In order to enable the Cooperative Store Ltd., Delhi, to set up the Department Store, the Government of India have given it a share capital contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs and a loan of Rs. 5.25 lakhs for the immediate procurement of furniture, fixtures and fittings required for the store.

(c) Yes Sir; it started functioning on the 15th of July, 1966.

(d) Yes Sir; it is proposed to set up at least one Department Store in each town with a population of 2 lakhs or more according to the 1961 census. Bombay and Calcutta will have two each and Delhi will have three for the time being.

Development of West Coast for Tourism

221. Shri Kajrolkar: Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a regular coastal cruise from Bombay to Goa, Mangalore and Cochin along the picturesque West Coast for the benefit of foreign tourists as well as holiday-makers within the country at reasonable expense; and

(b) whether Government also propose to construct suitable and attractive hotels/rest houses at scenic spots along the West Coast where people can spend their holidays and which can be reached by the coastal ferry service?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) No, Sir. A weekly service between Bombay and Cochin via Goa and Mangalore already exists and is availed of by tourists.

(b) A scheme for the integrated development of tourist facilities in Goa is under consideration. This will include the construction of tourist bungalows in selected places in Goa. The Mysore Government has indicated an interest in constructing a tourist bungalow at Karwar and is already constructing one at Mangalore. Cochin already possesses adequate accommodation to meet the present needs of tourists.

Ropeways to Link Gulmarg with Khillanmarg

222. Shri Baswant:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned the construction of ropeways linking the high altitude research laboratory at Gulmarg with Khillanmarg;

(b) if so, the total amount of expenditure; and

(c) when it is likely to be completed

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) to (c). It is proposed to construct a ropeway from Gulmarg to Khillanmarg as a part of the Fourth Plan tourism scheme to develop winter sports at Gulmarg. The ropeway is estimated to cost about Rs. 25 lakhs. It is expected to be completed by the end of the Fourth Plan period.

Bridge over Narmada

223. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of construction of the road bridge over the Narmada river near Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh, is lagging far behind schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) when the bridge is likely to be commissioned?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). It is true that the work of the bridge has lagged behind. This is a State project in which the Central Government has agreed to give a limited aid of Rs. 13.34 lakhs. The construction was taken in hand in February, 1960 and was required to be completed in 2 years. But soon after the commencement of the work a difficulty arose about the supply of high tensile wire. The original design for the bridge submitted by the firm was based on 66 tons of imported high tensile wire (3 mm dia) which they had procured, but when the firm's design was checked it was found that it required 92 tons of 3 mm high tensile steel wire. The design was therefore modified to enable the use of 7 mm dia high tensile wire which size by that time was being manufactured in the country. The change caused delay in progress of work.

(c) The work of the bridge has been recently started and is expected to be completed by December, 1967.

Mangalore Harbour Project

224. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri Basappa:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mangalore Harbour Project is not progressing according to the schedule:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to associate the Advisory or Consultative Committee comprising elected representatives of the people and other competent non-officials with the official set-up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva

Reddy): (a) and (b). The budgetary allocation has been inadequate due to the general financial stringency and this has affected the progress.

(c) and (d). In the project stage, when the problems are of an essentially technical or financial nature, it is not considered necessary to have a formal Advisory Committee of the kind suggested.

Scarcity of Foodgrains

225. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the present position in regard to the scarcity of foodgrains in the various States and Union Territories;

(b) the demands made by the different States and Union Territories for the supply of foodgrains from the Centre during the last three months; and

(c) the allotments made by the Centre and the quantities actually supplied during the above period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) The present supply position of foodgrains in the Country is difficult but not out of control.

(b) and (c). Demands are received from some of the States for specific periods. From other States general demands are received, while from still others no demand is received as they presume their requirements will be met by the Centre. The requirements of all the States are considered from time to time in consultation with the State Governments and supplies are arranged having regard to their relative needs and the overall availability of foodgrains with the Central Government.

A statement showing the allotments of foodgrains made and the quantities