THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHR1 BHAKT DARSHAN) : (a) The Government of India have sanctioned financial assistance to the Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha of Madras for running 200 Single-Teacher Hindi Vidvalavas in Tamil Nadu for teaching Hindi to those, who may wish to learn Hindi voluntarily.

(b) Some of these Hindi Vidyalayas were started by the Sabha from 2nd October, 1968, *i.e.* Mahatama Gandhi's Birthday.

(c) So far, about 110 Hindi Vidyalayas have been started.

Development of Haldia Port

*342. DR. RANEN SEN : SHRI J. M. BISWAS : SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : SHRI K. HALDER : SHRI SITARAM KESRI :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in developing Haldia as a satellite Port of Calcutta ;

(b) the amount which has been spent so far in this respect; and

(c) how long it will take to complete the construction ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-AFFAIRS, SHIPPING AND TARY TRANSPORT (SHR1 RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) The Haldia Project comprises the construction of an oil jetty and an impounded Dock System with slx berths and other ancillary facilities. The Oil Jetty has already been completed and brought into commission since August, 1968. Civil construction and dredging of the dock basin are in progress. Orders have been placed for the supply of coal and iron are loading plants, shunting locomotives and sliding caission gates for the lock entrance.

(b) An amount of Rs. 15 75 crores has been spent on the project up to the end of January, 1969.

(c) The work relating to the Haldia Project is progressing according to schedule and is expected to be completed in early 1971.

National Research Development Corporation of India

*343. DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of the working of the National Research Development Corporation of India during the last five years;

(b) if so, the nature of irregularities found during the same period; and

(c) the nature of action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) Government has not made a separate assessment of the working of the Corporation. The Corporation, however, is submitting its Annual Report regularly and the Report is placed before Parliament.

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

Cell for Rural Roads in Bihar

*344. SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Roads Committee recommended that a separate cell for rural roads be created under the State Highway Department;

(b) whether the cell has been created in Bihar;

(c) if so, the progress made so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in forming the cell?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir. The Committee have recommended the creation by State Govts. of a separate Engineering Department headed by a Chief Engineer to look after all the rural works.

(b) The Bihar Govt. have already under their Community Development and Panchayat Department a Rural Engineering Organisation to deal with all rural works including rural roads.