

vouchers and bills. The names of the agents are (i) D.M. Loukat, Calcutta, (ii) Madras Shipment Co. in Madras (iii) M.S. Mohammedy and Sons, Bombay, (iv) Jadwet Trading Company, Calcutta and (v) Jadwet Trading Company, Port Blair.

Report of the National Transport Policy Committee

1555. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of the National Transport Policy Committee; and

(b) if so, when the report was received and by when Government propose to take a decision on the Report?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The full report of the National Transport Policy Committee was received by the Government on 8th May 1980. The Report of the Committee is under examination and decisions on various recommendations will be taken as soon as possible in consultation with, and after receipt of views from various Central Ministries and State Governments.

Damage to Sikkim Highways

1556. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to blocked in Teesta river at NAGA North Sikkim the NORTH Sikkim

Highways between 70 to 85 kms. at NAGA are badly damaged; and

(b) if so what remedial steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE CHARGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Between 22nd and 25th June, 1980, a massive land-slide blocked the river Teesta near a place called Naga (at KM 81.5) on North Sikkim Highway. The site was inspected by a team including experts from the Geo. Survey of India, Border Roads Organisation etc.

The turbulent configuration burst between 2nd and 3rd August, 1980 washing away a Bailey bridge and portions of the road nearby and causing extensive damage as well as disruption of traffic. Urgent short-term measures for restoration of pedestrian traffic have been completed, and of light vehicular traffic are in hand. The site conditions being still unstable, long-term measures are not feasible or expedient at present; and will be considered as early as possible after a detailed study.

Theft of Antiques and Stone Idols

1557. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up any specific machinery to check the theft of antiques and stone idols from our temples and other ancient monuments by international racketeers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

†Previously Unstarred Question 1004 transferred from the 8th August, 1980.

†Previously Unstarred Question 1091, transferred from the 8th August, 1980.

†Previously Unstarred Question 1267 transferred from the 12th August, 1980.