

**Construction of a National Highway
from Batot to Kishtwar in Jammu and
Kashmir**

1771. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN
SHEIKH: SHRI RAMESHWAR
SINGH: SHRI PILOO MODY:

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

(a) whether the Central Govern-
ment have sanctioned any financial
assistance to the Jammu and Kashmir
Government for the construction of a
National Highway from Batot to
Kishtwar;

(b) if so, what is the amount sanctioned
and when this money was placed at the
disposal of the State Government;

(c) what is the present progress in the
work of construction of the highway; and

(d) by when the construction of
the highway is likely to be complet-
ed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE
OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) to
(d). Presumably, the Hon. Members are
referring to the funds required for upgrading to
National Highway standards of the existing
Batot-Kishtwar road which was declared as
National Highway in June 1977. Cost
appraisal for improving the road to National
Highway standards has been prepared after
the joint inspection carried out by the officers
of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport and
the State P.W.D. An estimate for Rs. 8.26
lakhs has been sanctioned for Survey and In-
vestigation to enable the State P.W.D. to
prepare detailed estimates. Improvement
works are proposed to be taken up in a phased
manner during the current Plan after detailed
estimates are sanctioned depending on the
priorities and overall availability

position of fund³. Funds for maintenance and
repairs of the above National Highway are,
however, being provided to State
Government. An allotment of Rs. 22.89 lakhs
has been made to the State Government for
the purpose during the current financial year.

Electronic watch Project

1772. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHA-
PARDE; DR. V. P. DUTT:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ap-
proved a multi-crore investment pro-
ject for the manufacture of electronic
watches by the Hindustan Machine
Tools Limited if so, what are the de-
tails thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Electronics
Commission was set in favour of the proposal
of allowing the manufacture of electronic
watches on the ground that none of the four
basic parts needed for an electronic watch are
made in the country; and

(c) whether the advice of the Electronics
Commission in this regard was kept in view
while approving the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI
ABHA MAITI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Decision on the application of
HMT for the manufacture of electronic
watches has not been taken.

1773. [Transferred to the 20th December,
1978].

Bhagirathi River Blockade

+1774. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU: Will the Minister of HOME
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the
intelligence reports to the effect

fPreviously Unstarred Question 1210
transferred from the 13th December, 1978.