

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 Government 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 completed?

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 Investigation to canable 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 funds. 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 approved a multi-crore investment project for the manufacture of electronic watches by the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Electronics Commission was not 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

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