

in operation for a period of five years from 15-7-71. This scheme envisaged a subsidy to be given to new industrial units (except plantations, refineries and power generation units) by the Centre equivalent to 50 per cent of the transport costs of industrial raw materials brought into and the finished goods taken out of the J&K State and the States and Union Territories in the north eastern region, between the location of industrial units and the rail head at Pathankot in the case of J & K and Siliguri in the case of the north eastern States. Existing industrial units undertaking substantial expansion or diversification were also eligible for the subsidy in respect of additional transport costs of the materials and finished goods arising out of such expansion or diversification.

The scheme was subsequently extended to the State of Himachal Pradesh and the hill regions in U.P. from 24-8-73.

The question of continuance of the scheme beyond the aforesaid period of five years is presently under review.

Apart from the above, there is no proposal under consideration for extending a general transport subsidy in respect of all the hill areas of the country.

Indian support for ASEAN peace zone plan in the Indian Ocean

310. SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI: will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government have extended support to the peace zone plan in the Indian Ocean of the Association of South East Asian Nations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): The Government are not aware of any peace zone plan in the Indian Ocean of the

Association of South-East Asian Nations. However, none of the ASEAN countries has opposed the UN Resolutions on the Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean, and since 1973 all of them have extended their support to the subsequent resolutions adopted by the UNGA in 1973, 1974 and 1975. The Government of India's policy of consistent support to the UN proposal on the concept of Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean is well-known.

Central Road Fund for Andhra Pradesh

311. SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-VIYA; SHRIMATI LEELA DAMO-DARA MENON: SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN;

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

(a) the amount at the credit of Andhra Pradesh under the Central Road Fund (State Allocation);

(b) the amount allotted to the State under the Central Road Fund during the Fifth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the amount requested for by the State Government for the year 1975-76 and the amount sanctioned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Presumably the Honourable Members desire to know the free balance in the Central Road Fund (Allocation Share) available for approval of Schemes in Andhra Pradesh. The free balance for Andhra Pradesh at present is Rs. 52.48 lakhs.

(b) An amount of Rs. 69.40 lakhs comprising of Rs. 55.77 lakhs under Allocation share and Rs. 13.63 lakhs under Ordinary Reserve was allotted to Andhra Pradesh during the first two years of the Fifth Five Year Plan. Allotment for the balance—

period will depend on the budget provision voted by the Parliament, and the requirements received from various States, for each year.

(c) A sum of Rs. 47.23 lakhs comprising of Rs. 39.10 lakhs under Allocation share and Rs. 8.13 lakhs under Ordinary Reserve was requested by the State Government. Against this a sum of Rs. 43.70 lakhs comprising of Rs. 35.57 lakhs under Allocation share and Rs. 8.13 lakhs under Ordinary Reserve was sanctioned during 1975-76 keeping in view the available resources and the requirements of other States.

Funds for the development of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

312. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON;

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state the amount allocated from the years 1970 to 1976, year wise, to Andhra Pradesh for the development of national highways in that State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): The requisite information is as follows:—

| Year | Allotment Rs. in lakhs |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 1970-71 | 203.19 |
| 1971-72 | 550.00 |
| 1972-73 | 654.52 |
| 1973-74 | 455.00 |
| 1974-75 | 425.00 |
| 1975-76 | 340.00 |
| 1976-77 | 394.00 (allocation) |

Sinn-Indian relation

313. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any further developments for strengthening relations with China have taken place since the posting of our ambassador in Peking, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether cultural and other delegations are likely to be exchanged between the two countries during the current year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b) The formalities connected with the exchange of Ambassadors with China have been completed with the appointment of Mr. Chen Chao-yuan as the Chinese Ambassador to India. It is expected that the Chinese Ambassador would take up his appointment soon. The Government is studying ways and means of continuing the process of normalisation of relations begun with the exchange of Ambassadors.

Withdrawal of total Provident Fund by workers after 20 years of service

314. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand from the trade unions to allow the withdrawal of the entire amount of provident fund accumulations of workers after completion of 20 years of service by them; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The Employees' Provident Fund is administered by the Central Board of