

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Subject to the availability of funds, the following additional bridge works are likely to be taken up for construction during the year 1975-76:—

1. Bridge between Kumbalam and Aroor in Cochin Bypass, N.H.47.

2. Bridge between Panangad and Kumbalam in Cochin Bypass, N. H. 47.

3. Reconstruction of Puthenthodu bridge on N.H. 47.

4. Puduponnani bridge on N.H. 17.

The Govt. of India have recently approved tendered costs for the first two bridges. The State Government is now to award the works.

Statement

Physical progress of Bridge Works under construction in the State of Kerala.

N.H. No.	Name or location of bridge	Overall progress upto 31-12-1974
		Per cent
47	Ithikkara bridge at Km. 508/8	63
47	Thodam bridge at Km. 293/200	98
47	Ponnamveli bridge at Km. 386/60	60
47	Kuthiathodu bridge at Km. 376/6	98
47	Krishna Puram bridge at Km. 461/6	95
47	Tripalur bridge at Km. 227/5	70
47	Bridge across A.S. Canal on Shertalai bypass	99

N.H. No.	Name or location of bridge	Overall progress upto 31-12-1974
47	Yakkara bridge at Km. 209/3	95
47	Bridge over Netturoidu	38
47	Bridge between Maradu and Netturoidu	60
47	Bridge over Champakkara-thodu.	50
47	Bridge Kannalipalam at Km. 436/6	26
47	Widening of Cannanore bridge.	95
47	Malampuzha Canal bridge	95
47	Chullanur Canal Bridge.	0.5
17	Baliapattam bridge at Km. 152.	42.40

Sharp rise in accidents in coal mines

*99. SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI B. K. MAHANTI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of fatal accidents and deaths in coal mines, particularly in West Bengal coal mines, have sharply increased in 1974 as compared to that in 1973;

(b) if so, what is the number of such accidents, the number of persons killed and the names of mines where these accidents took place;

(c) whether the Director-General of Mines Safety has made full investigations into each of these fatal accidents;

(d) if so, what are his findings; and

(e) what action has been taken against the management in each case?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) 201 fatal accidents occurred and 234 persons were killed in coal

mines during the year 1974 as compared with 172 fatal accidents and 237 persons killed during the year 1973. Of these, 44 fatal accidents occurred and 51 persons were killed in coalmines in West Bengal during the year 1974 as compared with 36 fatal accidents and 39 persons killed during the year 1973.

(b) to (e) The required information in respect of year 1974 is being compiled and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Porbandar Port in Gujarat

*100. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G.
KULKARNI:

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

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for the development of Porbandar Port in Gujarat;

(b) whether there is any plan to make it a major port; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the financial outlay during the Fifth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) Financial assistance has been extended to the Government of Gujarat for development of Porbandar under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of Minor Ports.

(b) and (c). No, Sir, however, the balance of the estimated cost of the project, not released to the State Government till the end of the Fourth Plan period, has been included in the provision for Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the draft Fifth Plan for the completion of the project.

Arms limitation in the Indian Ocean

*101. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Kingdom has formally expressed desire to discuss with India and other coastal countries about arms limitation in the Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, whether such proposal has been accepted by the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dialogue with China

*102. SHRI S. A. HASHMI:
SHRI N. S. TALIB:
SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:
SHRIMATI MARGARET
ALVA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move afoot to start a dialogue with China for normalisation of Indo-China relations; and

(b) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):

(a) and (b) The Government of India have repeatedly, and for several years, expressed their sincere desire for normalisation of relations between India and China. A positive response from the Government of China is still awaited.

Committee on Government purchases

*103. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:
SHRI AWADHESHWAR
PRASAD SINHA:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any committee to examine the question of Government purchases;