

the Fifth Plan will go up by Rs. 118.82 lakhs, raising the total outlay to Rs. 3308.72 lakhs. The plan proposals are expected to be implemented before 31st March, 1979. 540. [Transferred to the 6th, March 1973.]

NEW HOOGHLY BRIDGE

541. SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:
SHRI K.P.SINGH DEO:

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

(a) Whether the design of Messrs Freeman Fox and Partners of London for a cable-stayed box girder Bridge has been accepted for the construction of the new Hooghly bridge at Calcutta and whether the State Government was consulted in the matter;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India are aware that in the recent past there have been several cases of failures of such bridges designed by the said firm in several countries of the world; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to re-examine the said design and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M.B. RANA): (a) to (c) The proposed Hooghly Bridge falls on a State Road and, therefore, the Government of West Bengal are primarily concerned with all matters pertaining to this project including the acceptance of design. Accordingly contracts for the bridge and approaches were awarded by the State Government themselves. The design of the said bridge, as accepted by the State Government, is for a cable stayed box girder bridge with a rivetted construction. Messrs Freeman Fox and Partners are the Consultants to Messrs Bhagirathi Bridge Construction Company who have been awarded the work of Bridge proper. The failures referred to in the question are reported to be of welded designs while rivetted design is proposed to be adopted for this bridge.

It has been reported by the State Government that before taking a final decision regarding the award of work for bridge proper, expert opinion of the Railway Board was obtained regarding the advisability of adopting rivetted structure *vis-a-vis* welded structure. On an enquiry, it has been reported by the Chief Engineer Calcutta Port Commissioners (who are the implementing agency for the bridge proper) that before deciding upon the award of contract, the question of design of box girder bridges in the context of the recent failures was thoroughly examined at various stages. In order to take further precautionary measures in the matter, the following additional steps are reported to have been taken to guard against any possible deficiency of the prevalent method of design of box girder bridges:—

(i) It has been specifically stipulated in the contract that the Merrison Rules for the design of box girders (a new code of design formulated by the Merrison Committee entrusted with the technical investigation of the box girder failures by the Government of U.K.) shall be adopted and incorporated in the work by the contractor; and

(ii) In order to provide a lighter check at each step, it is proposed by the State Government to appoint two foreign consultants to carry out a double check of the detailed design and drawings to be prepared by the contractors' consultants *viz.* Messrs Freeman Fox and Partners.

BEGGARY IN THE COUNTRY

542. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of the total number of beggars in the country and their daily earnings has been conducted;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the number of beggars has been increasing every year; and

(c) the steps taken to abolish beggary?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE. (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir; there has been no national survey. However, the Census Reports contain information regarding beggars and vagrants. According to the 1971 Census (1 % advance tabulation) there are 7,44,500 such persons. This number is subject to variations on account of seasonal factors as also of the general growth in population.

The problem of beggary is being tackled in the short term through anti-beggary legislations. The various socio-economic programmes are expected to have the long term impact on eradicating beggary.

ACQUISITION OF THE HOUSE OF SHRI SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

543. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to acquire the house of Shri Sarat Chandra Bose for preserving it as a national memorial, and

(b) if so, the details regarding the memorial.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OMMEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of West Bengal desires to establish a permanent exhibition, library and a research centre as a memorial to National leaders, freedom fighters and revolutionaries. The exact details will be worked out by the State Government in

consultation with the Central Ministry of Education and Social Welfare.

NEW MACHINERY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE LAND REFORMS

544. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new machinery for implementing the land reforms, involving people's participation and eliminating the officials' hand therein; is proposed to be set up;

(b) if so, the precise set up of the proposed machinery; and

(c) the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The guidelines issued by the Government of India in the light of the recommendations of the Chief Ministers' Conference on Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings held in July, 1972, state that implementation will be the responsibility of the State Governments and that they would set up non-official bodies at appropriate levels and place competent official organisation in order to administer the ceiling legislation.

(c) Among the land ceiling legislations revised so far in the light of the guidelines the Kerala Land Reforms Act provides for the constitution of a village committee for each village consisting of the village officer and six other members to be nominated by the Government. The committee is to advise the land tribunal in respect of the identification of the land-owner, the intermediaries, the cultivating tenant and all other persons interested in the land; such particulars as are necessary for the identification of the land, the valuation of encumbrances subsisting on the land* etc.