

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finalised plans for the excavations of Purara Quila in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the purpose of this excavations;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the period likely to be taken for the execution work; and

(e) the likely effect of the excavations on the ancient monuments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHRI-MATI JAHANA JAIPAL SINGH):

(a) The plans are being finalised.

(b) Excavations are being undertaken to establish the antiquity of the site.

(c) The total estimated cost has not yet been worked out; but the expenditure for about three months' field season is estimated to about Rs. 60,000.

(d) The excavation is likely to commence towards the end of December, 1969 and will continue till about the middle of March, 1970. Further excavation would depend on the results achieved during the first season.

(e) The proposed excavation is quite distant from the standing monuments and is not likely to cause any adverse effect on them.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 22

*634. SHRI C. L. VARMA :

SHRIMATI SATYAVATI DANG :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on the National Highway No. 22, the Kalka-Simla Section is very narrow and the tourist and military traffic is experiencing great deal of difficulty on this account;

(b) whether it is a fact that on the Kalka-Simla Section of the National Highway there are frequent accidents, if so, what action Government propose to take to widen the road; and

(c) whether it is a fact that adequate funds have not been provided for maintenance of this National Highway during the current financial year, if so,

whether Government propose to provide the necessary funds for its maintenance in view of its importance from defence point of view?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI K. RA-GHURAMIAH) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Kalka-Simla Section of National Highway No. 22 generally having single-lane carriage-way has fairly wide formation width except some portions which are narrow where some difficulty is experienced by vehicular traffic. There have been some accidents on the road. Improvements of the road by way of widening of carriage-way and improving weak and narrow bridges and culverts is being considered for inclusion in the Fourth Five Year Plan. Some important improvement works are likely to be taken up in the next financial year subject to availability of funds.

Adequate funds for maintenance and repairs of the highway amounting to Rs. 6.72 lakhs have been allotted taking into consideration the importance of the road and the total allotment made available for the maintenance and repairs of National Highways in the entire country.

STATUTORY CORPORATION FOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS OF INDIA

*635. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 65 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 1969 and state the progress so far made towards the setting up of an independent airport authority for the international airports of India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : Government have decided to set up a statutory Corporation for the management of the four International airports at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. Action to implement this decision as well as other recommendations of the International Airports Committee is being taken.