

Court of Law, this claim has been filed with the Court with a request to give it priority over claims filed by other claimants. Orders of the Court are awaited.

CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGHWAY BETWEEN SILCHAR AND IMPHAL

700. SARDAR RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ECAFE has agreed to supply road-making equipments for the construction of a highway through the hilly jungles between Silchar and Imphal;

(b) if so, what is the programme for the construction of this highway; and

(c) by what time it is likely to be completed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DASHAN) : (a) to (c) Presumably, the hon. Member is referring to the recommendation of the ECAFE Study Team made by them in 1962, while surveying the Asian Highway Route No. A-1, connecting Turkish/Iran border with Saigon between Calcutta and Bangkok that, in order to expedite the completion of the part of the Silchar-Imphal road in Manipur as also to facilitate its further development, the ECAFE should arrange for India, as aid, road-making machinery worth \$ 1 million, through some aid-giving agency or donor country. The completion of this road would shorten the travel distance by about 400 kilometres along the Asian Highway Route No. A-1 referred to above. This equipment has, however, not yet been received and the ECAFE are still continuing their efforts to procure it. Meanwhile, the Manipur Administration have been going ahead with the construction of the road and expect to complete it by the end of the Fourth Plan period. The section of this road in Assam from Silchar to Jiribam on the Assam/Manipur border already exists.

ARMED REBELLION IN WEST BENGAL

701. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH :
SHRI S. K. D. PALIWAL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to an allegation made

by the then Chief Minister of West Bengal that a section of one of the constituent parties of the United Front Government had tried to bring about an armed rebellion in West Bengal with the help of the Chinese,

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made in the matter;

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the result of the enquiry; and

(d) whether Government have seized any documents or any other material from any section of the people in that State which may lend support to the allegation, and if so, the nature of the documents and the material?

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

(a) Government have seen the Press reports of the statement made by the former Chief Minister of West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Government are keeping a close watch on the developments mentioned in Shri Ajoy Mukerji's statement.

(d) The State Government have been requested to let us know the facts.

CYCLONE OVER ORISSA

702. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH :
DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Meteorological Department of the Government of India had given any forewarning to the people of the affected region about the cyclone that passed over Orissa in October last;

(b) whether the Department is equipped to know of such cyclones in advance;

(c) whether there has been any negligence on the part of anybody in the Department to foresee the cyclone or to give forewarning to the people; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to equip the regional offices of the Department with instruments that can be helpful in such situations?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Warnings were issued, but as the intensity of the cyclone could not be correctly forecast, the warnings proved inadequate.