

(b) No, Sir. To the best of our knowledge foreign tourists have not expressed dissatisfaction with International Tourist Year arrangements.

(c) It is the constant endeavour of the Department of Tourism to review and to improve the facilities available to tourists.

JODHPUR AIRPORT

20. SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jodhpur was at one time an important airport for international air routes;

(b) the number of times Jodhpur was put on and off the air routes during the last ten years;

(c) what are the reasons for not keeping Jodhpur on air routes; and

(d) whether any proposal to restart the air service to Jodhpur is under Government's consideration?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) Before World War II Jodhpur was utilised as an en-route station by some international operators. Jodhpur was also an intermediate stop on the Delhi-Karachi service.

(b) Air service to Jodhpur was discontinued in 1962 due to inadequate traffic. Jodhpur was again air-linked in April 1964 but had to be given up in August 1964 due to the same reason.

(c) Inadequate commercial traffic.

(d) No, Sir.

NATIONAL FOOD BUDGET

*21. SHRI S.K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of a National Food Budget was discussed at the Chief Minister's Conference held in the first week of July, 1967; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*22. [Transferred to the 4th August, 1967.]

UPGRADING OF EAST COAST ROAD ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY

*23. SHRI V. V. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government approved any proposal in the year 1962 of upgrading of East Coast Road from Madras to Kanyakumari to National Highway Standards (including construction of missing links in the route) from Central funds;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme including (i) formation of the missing links, (ii) the construction of bridges, and (iii) improving the sub-standard stretches of roads; and

(c) the total cost of the scheme, and the progress so far made in its implementation and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

FOREST RESOURCES OF KERALA

*24. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: SHRI ARAVINDAKSHAN KAIMAL: SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA):

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala for the setting up of a