

Highway the Jabalpur-Raipur, and Kandla-Calcutta roads passing through Madhya Pradesh; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) and (b) A statement explaining the position is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for adding to the existing National Highway System the Jabalpur-Raipur road and the Kandla-Calcutta road passing through Madhya Pradesh has been received from the Committee of M.Ps. from Madhya Pradesh. So far as the Kandla-Calcutta road is concerned, there is already a road on that alignment which is entirely a National Highway (National Highway No. 6) in Madhya Pradesh. As regards the Jabalpur-Raipur road, the proposal will have to await till funds become available for the expansion of the present National Highway System when all proposals for new national highways would be considered according to their *inter se* merits and the availability of funds. No funds are available for making new additions to the existing National Highway System at present.

DEMONSTRATION BY SEA-FARERS IN BOMBAY

*22. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that members of the National Union of Seafarers of India demonstrated in front of the office of the Director General of Shipping, Bombay on 3rd June, 1965 to focus attention of the authorities to their demands of improved pay-scales etc; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

There was a minor demonstration by a few seamen before the offices of the Director General of Shipping and some Shipping Companies at Bombay on the 3rd June, 1965. It was stated that the object was to focus attention on the following demands:—

- (i) Improved scale of provisions and revision of the existing Articles of Agreement;
- (ii) Abolition of periodical Government medical examination system; and
- (iii) Unemployment benefit in the form of retention allowance.

2. The question of improvement of the existing scale of provisions and revision of the Articles of Agreement are under consideration.

3. The abolition of the existing medical examination system is not considered desirable while the question of unemployment benefit is a matter for negotiation between the representatives of sea-farers and shipowners.

SOVIET PASSENGER PLANES FOR INDIA

*23. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. V. Shankar, Secretary of the Ministry, visited Moscow in June to consider the possibility of purchasing Ilyushin-18 (Soviet Passenger Planes) for use in India; and

(b) if so, what are the results of his visit and how many Soviet planes are likely to be purchased for internal air traffic in the country?