

basis during the Third Plan period. They propose to take up the work of this scheme in the year 1963-64. Further continuance of this in Punjab or its adoption by other States would depend on the results achieved in connection with this pilot scheme.]

DRUG FARM IN JAMMU

*960. SHRI R. N. KAKATI: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a drug farm has been established by the Central Government in collaboration with the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir at Chakrohi in Ranbir Singh Pora Tehsil of Jammu Province on the borders of West Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details of the Project *inter alia* the saving in foreign exchange anticipated?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Farm will be of nearly 2000 acres for the cultivation of *Mentha arvensis* and will involve an estimated expenditure of Rs. 42-67 lakhs. Out of which capital expenditure of Rs. 13-50 lakhs on buildings and machinery etc. will be initially borne by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The State Government will bear the recurring expenditure of Rs. 29-17 lakhs spread over three years. The amount spent by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research will be reimbursed by the State Government when the Farm starts earning profits.

Estimated foreign exchange savings are about Rs. 30-00 lakhs per annum when the Farm is in full production.

BRIDGE OVER RIVER SWARNAREKHA ON CALCUTTA-BOMBAY NATIONAL HIGHWAY

*961. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are building a bridge over river Swarnarekha on the main Calcutta-Bombay National Highway; and

(b) if so, when the construction of the bridge was started?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The bridge over river Swarnarekha on the main Calcutta-Bombay National Highway has been completed.

(b) The work of constructing this bridge was commenced on the 15th November, 1953.

REVIVAL OF SHORT-TERM LICENTIATE COURSE IN MEDICINE

*962. SHRI ANSARUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to overcome the shortage of doctors in the country, a proposal for revival of the short-term licentiate course in medicine was made but the Central Council of Health turned it down;

(b) if so, what were the grounds on which this proposal was rejected?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) and (b) The proposal to revive the Licentiate course in medicine was considered by the Central Council of Health at its meeting held in October, 1960. Since opinion on the subject was divided, no decision was taken at the meeting and the matter was left to the State Governments. There is, however, strong opposition to the revival of this course.

DOUBLING OF LINE ON ITARSI-JABALPUR SECTION

*963. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the mileage of railway line proposed to be doubled on the Jabalpur