

If not, by when the work on the project is likely to be taken up; and

(b) what will be the starting and terminal points of this highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Highway No. 28 starts from Lucknow and passing through Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Dar-bhanga Districts meets National Highway No. 31 near Barauni in Monghyr District. From Barauni National Highway 31 proceeds to Kishanganj, Siliguri, Cooch Behar, and entering the State of Assam at Baxirhat terminates at Jogigopa.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: What is the total length of this proposed highway?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It is an old highway namely, No. 28 and the other is 31. Some additions may be made in view of the birdge that is coming up there.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: What will be the cost of the portion of the highway passing via Barauni and within what time will it be constructed?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We have sanctioned five estimates for Rs. 155'52 lakhs for a length of 108'53 miles on Highway No. 28 and the work on two sections has already been started. For the section from Barauni to Baxirhat four estimates have been sanctioned for a length of 96'52 mi.es.

#### **DELEGATION TO CANADA, U.S.A. AND Moscow**

♦483. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any report has been submitted by the delegation consisting of Sarvashri A. M. Thomas, B. P.

Bagchi and B. L. Sahney after their visit to Canada, the United States of America and Moscow; and

(b) whether any recommendations have been made by them for storage and distribution of wheat?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The delegation have reported on their firsthand impressions of the methods adopted in the production and marketing of wheat in Canada as well as in the U.S.A. They have been impressed by the arrangements in these countries for the bulk storage of wheat and their methods of loading and unloading of wheat at ports. The question of increasing the bulk storage space in India and adapting to Indian conditions the methods in use in Canada and the U.S.A. for the unloading of wheat at ports has been receiving attention for some time. The experience gained in the tour will be useful in dealing with the various problems which arise in this connection. The delegation have also drawn attention to the use of an improved grain protectant in use in the U.S.A. and have suggested that the feasibility of its use under Indian conditions should be investigated.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that an earlier committee was appointed to go into the question of handling foodgrains and their storage and they submitted a report where very valuable recommendations were made? May I know whether the hon. Minister has seen that report and whether that report was considered before this delegation was sent?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: No committee was appointed to report on the things that have been suggested by the hon. Member. Of course, the question of improving the storage practices here has been under the consideration of the Ministry.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Probably the hon. Minister is not aware of that committee. I might tell him that my own brother was the secretary of that committee.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: He may give me the name. I am not aware of any such committee constituted to enquire into these things and to report.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know whether this question of sending this delegation arose only on account of the large-scale importation of foodgrains from America?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: This delegation was sent on the invitation of the Canadian Government having regard to our relationship with that country and also our imports from Canada on deferred payment basis and the Colombo Plans, also under the commercial marketing. The Government of India thought it would be advisable to accept this invitation.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the Government aware that the godowns that were hired from certain Dig capitalists in Calcutta for storing foodgrains have been found to be useless and worthless for that purpose and . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Useless and worthless?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes, useless and worthless, Sir, both. And some people rejected them and also recommended that certain alternative arrangements should be made for the storing of wheat and other foodgrains.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In all these countries—we have visited the United States, the U.K. and also Russia—the storage arrangements are the same, identical, and it would be worth while to adopt them here, those practices obtaining in those countries.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I was not asking about storage in Canada.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What he says is that our storage arrangements are also identical with the way in which these things are managed there.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then do I understand that in those countries unused godowns of jute mills and other concerns are hired for storing wheat so that the hon. Minister is in a position to say that the arrangement here is exactly the same as that in Canada and Moscow?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, it has been answered more than once on the floor of this House that as far as our storage is concerned, it is more on the traditional lines, that is, masonry construction. Of course, we are also now trying to put up godowns of the type that we find in Western countries, silos, especially in the port towns.

#### **ACTION ON NALLAGARH COMMITTEE REPORT**

\*484. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the action taken by the various State Governments on the report of the Nallagarh Committee on Agriculture Administration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **STATEMENT**

The States have reported fair progress in the implementation of most of the recommendations involving expenditure. For instance, delegation of powers has been done by the majority of the States to ensure speedy implementation of schemes. Powers have also been expanded wherever necessary. Similarly, modification of rules and regulations is