

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, as to what are the reasons why this purchase is so low?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We are ourselves not quite satisfied with the performance, but the procurement has been only to that extent.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: I wanted to know the reasons why this purchase is so low and what steps are being taken by the Government?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, the purchase has been on the basis of 50 per cent, of the stocks acquired by the traders, and after the introduction of the control scheme, arrivals have been poor so much so that the State Government could procure only this much quantity.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that if the *kisan*, that is the producer, goes to the market and sells himself, he can sell cent per cent?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: That is so, Sir, with the producer, but that will also depend on the quantity that he brings to the market.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY BETWEEN HYDERABAD AND NAGPUR

*636. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of the national highway between Hyderabad and Nagpur has been suspended; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, by when the construction of this highway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) By the middle of the Third Five-Year Plan.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether any Class III and Class IV servants working at the Hinganghat office of this project have been very recently retrenched for the alleged reason that the work on this project has been suspended?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I do not think this arises out of this question. I am not aware of this fact; I do not think any such complaint has been made.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to press reports that Class III and Class IV servants have been retrenched from the Hinganghat office?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I take note of it.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: What is the length of this highway between Nagpur and Hyderabad which is yet to be constructed?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Between Nagpur and Hyderabad the entire length of the highway is 299 miles and 6 furlongs and between these two States 105 miles and 6 furlongs fall in Bombay State (Nagpur to Penganga river) and 194 miles in Andhra Pradesh (from Penganga to Hyderabad city).

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, when this work was started and what are the reasons for the considerable delay in completing the work of construction of this road?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The exact point of time? I cannot say when it was started, but I think there has not been any unreasonable delay, but there are a number of bridges to be built—there are a few unbridged rivers—and some culverts have to be built.