

SHELTERED LIGHTERAGE AT THANGASSERY

•143. SHRI P. A. SOLOMON: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for the construction of a sheltered lighterage at Thangassery in the District of Quilon has been submitted by the Government of Kerala to the Government of India; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Development of minor ports is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

The State Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal for constructing a sheltered lighterage port at Thangassery by converting the Thangassery Cove into an artificial harbour. The Thangassery Cove is about 4½ miles to the south of the Ashtamudi Lake inlet, which was proposed to be developed as a fishing harbour under the Norwegian Indian Fisheries Community Development Project. The proposal to convert the Thangassery Cove into an artificial harbour involved the construction of a canal connecting the proposed port with Ashtamudi Lake.

In the meantime, a suggestion was made for developing Thangassery Bay as a fishing-cum-commercial port, if it was found impracticable to develop the Ashtamudi Lake inlet. Model experiments in respect of both the schemes have been carried out at the Poona Research Station.

The Government of Kerala was asked on the 7th January, 1959 to examine the reports submitted by the Director, Poona Research Station, and to work out comparative costs of the Thangassery and Ashtamudi schemes in the light of the recommendations made in the Report and forward their proposals to the Government of India along with statement showing the comparative costs for the two schemes. These are awaited. A final decision as to which of the two schemes is to be executed would be taken thereafter in consultation with the Government of Kerala.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, what is a sheltered lighterage?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: A harbour which could give shelter to lighters—the smaller types of vessels.

TRAINING OF MEMBERS OF BLOCK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

•144. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the arrangements for the training of the members of the Block Development Committees have been finalised; and

(b) if so, what are those arrangements?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA): (a) and (b). The arrangements are being finalised and a copy will be placed on the Table.

FACILITIES FOR TOURISTS AT AJANTA AND ELLORA CAVES

♦145. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what arrangements are being made for drinking water for the visitors to the Ellora Caves;