

Tungabhadra Hydro-Electric Scheme. As this Scheme is not included in the 'core' of the Plan it has not been possible to release any foreign exchange for this purpose.

TELEPHONE FACILITIES AT HAFLONG

*565. SHRI J. B. HAGJER: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide telephone facilities at Haflong in Assam; and

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. K. PATIL) : (a) and (b). A 10 line magneto board with 4 extensions is already functioning there. This is however being replaced by a 50 line telephone Exchange. The installation is expected to be completed within the next six months.

CONSTRUCTION OF JOWAI-BADARPUR ROAD IN ASSAM

*566. SHRI J. B. HAGJER: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether the construction of Jowai-Badarpur Road in Assam has been completed? If not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : Construction of the road proper has been completed but five bridges remain to be constructed. Work on these bridges is about to be started. Pending construction of these bridges, ferry crossing has been provided on one river and temporary bridges on others for fair weather use. The project has taken time to complete because it lies across difficult mountain terrain. 101 RSD.—3.

SCARCITY OF PURE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY IN TRIPURA

*567. SHRI ABDUL LATIF: 'Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people of Tripura are suffering from scarcity of pure drinking water;

(b) whether Government are aware of the potential danger of outbreak of epidemics in the affected areas owing to the drinking of water polluted recently by inundation and gale; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for immediately providing supply of pure drinking water in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Yes, there is scarcity of pure drinking water in some areas of Tripura territory.

(b) No report has been received about the outbreak of any epidemic or about any pollution of drinking water after the last floods and the gale that swept Tripura during October, 1958.

(c) The question of making any immediate arrangements does not arise in view of reply to part (b) of the question. However, to mitigate the scarcity of pure drinking water, schemes for sinking of tube wells, ring wells which have been included in the Second Five Year Plan are being implemented.

MEDICAL BENEFITS TO RAILWAY WORKERS

*568. SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medical benefits that are given to railway workers do not include provision of artificial limbs;