

(b) The details have not yet been finalized.

(c) According to the tentative estimate expected that in the initial stage, the recurring expenditure on this research Organisation would be Rs. 25 lakhs.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF A TUNNEL ACROSS BRAHMAPUTRA

\*493. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration by Government for constructing a two and a half mile long tunnel across the Brahmaputra at Pandu or Jogipura in Assam;

(b) if so, whether any details of this scheme have been finalised; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, by which date the same will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) to (c). Preliminary investigations show that it will be more economical to construct a road bridge than a tunnel across the Brahmaputra and, therefore, the idea of the tunnel has been dropped for the present. The scheme for a bridge has not yet been finalised as detailed investigations, surveys and sub-surface explorations are required to be made before the scheme for such a major project could be finalised.

#### HOMOEOPATHIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

\*502. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) how many meetings of the Homoeopathic Advisory Committee were held in 1956 and the first half of 1957;

(b) whether the Committee has recommended the establishment of a Homoeopathic college in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps are being taken in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) One meeting of the Homoeopathic Advisory Committee was held during 1956 and one meeting was held in the first half of 1957.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF MADRAS GOVERNMENT FOR CENTRAL GRANT FOR ROADS UNDER SECOND PLAN

\*503. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madras has recommended any schemes for the development of roads of economic and tourist importance for Central Grant for the Second Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, which are those schemes?

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

(b) A statement giving the names of the schemes is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

Road schemes of economic and tourist importance recommended by Government of Madras for Central Grant-in-Aid during Second Plan period so far.

1. Upgrading the Vedaranyam-Kodikarai road.

2. Construction of road to Vedan-thangal Bird Sanctuary.

3. Improvement of road from Rameshwaram Station to Temple.

4. Development of the Ootacamund-Kalahatti road as a motorable road.

5. Construction of a road connecting Gandamadanaparvatham with the Pamban-Rameshwaram road.

6. Metalling of the Mayuram-Kaveripatnam road.

**PAYMENT OF LOANS APPROVED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF OVER-BRIDGES AT THE RAIL LEVEL CROSSINGS IN MADRAS**

\*504. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether the Government of Madras has applied for the payment of loans already approved for the construction of over-bridges at the rail level crossings?

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

**CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN TRIPURA**

\*505. SHRI ABDUL LATIF: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many co-operative societies have been formed by the displaced persons in Tripura; and

(b) how many persons have taken shares in those co-operative societies?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) Fifty-eight.

(b) 5,594 persons.

**FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION IN 1956-57**

\*506. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foodgrain production in the country for the crop year 1956-57;

(b) whether the production is arithmetically sufficient for consumption in the country leaving a surplus; and

(c) if so, whether there is any need for a heavy import programme?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) The total production of foodgrains in India during 1956-57 is estimated at 68.6 million tons.

(b) It is difficult to determine consumption requirements. They depend on various factors. The intake of cereals is relatively less in the case of those who can afford supplementary foods but the vast majority of people probably consume more cereals than is necessary for a balanced diet. The consumption requirements are going up.

(c) Imports are necessary partly to meet the gap between the available supply and demand and partly to provide Government with stocks which can be sold for keeping the prices under check.

**CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE BETWEEN AROOR AND EDACOCHIN IN KERALA**

\*507. SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the construction of the bridge between Aroor and Edacochin in Kerala State; and

(b) when the bridge will be opened for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) About 44 per cent, of the work on the construction of the bridge has been completed.

(b) The bridge is expected to be opened for traffic towards the end of the year 1958.