

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.