

in the provisions of the Bihar and West Bengal (Transfer of Territories) Bill or the Act. However, the necessity of the construction of a bye-pass round Kishanganj town is under examination.

(b) Proceedings to acquire land for the bye-pass will be started if the necessity for the bye-pass is accepted.

#### Fire in Lighthouse at Porbandar

1416. { Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:  
Shri Murli Manohar:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fire broke out in the Light House at Porbandar on the 6th September, 1964;

(b) if so, the details of the incident and its causes; and

(c) loss, if any, caused by fire?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fire was caused by a short circuit and the transformer was damaged.

(c) Rs. 220 (approx.).

#### Bridges on Calcutta-Bombay National Highway

1417. Shri V. B. Deo: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any road bridge over the rivers Sankh and Bala on the Jashpur-Gumla portion of the Calcutta-Bombay National Highway, considerable delay is caused in the clearance of traffic;

(b) whether Government have under consideration any scheme for the construction of road-bridges over these two rivers; and

(c) if so, whether this project would be taken up during the current plan or in the next plan?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The Jashpur Nagar-Gumla road does not form part of any National Highway. It is a State road and therefore its improvement is essentially the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

However, under the Central Aid Programme for the development of State roads of inter-State or economic importance approved in May 1964, the Government of India offered to the Government of Madhya Pradesh a grant-in-aid of Rs. 13.34 lakhs to meet two-third of the estimated cost (Rs. 20 lakhs) of improvements to the Jashpur Nagar-Gumla road in Madhya Pradesh, including the construction of bridges across the Sankh and Bala rivers.

The work relating to the improvement of the road portion was sanctioned in March, 1955. During the course of execution of the work, the State Government came to know that the Government of Bihar had a proposal for the construction of Sankh (Upper) Hydel Project which would submerge a considerable portion of the Jashpur Nagar-Gumla road. The State Governments of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have selected a new site for the proposed bridge over the Sankh river. The estimated cost of the bridge over the river Sankh at the new site and of the connecting road links is now more than twice the amount of the original estimated cost of improvement of the road along the existing alignment and the question of distribution of the grant-in-aid originally allotted for the project is under correspondence with the State Governments.

#### Tourist Development Corporation in Kerala

1418. { Shri A. V. Raghavan:  
Shri Pottakkatt:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the matter of establishing a tourist development corporation in Kerala; and