

stretch has also been completed. Further detailed hydrographic surveys and techno-economic studies on the Kottapuram-Cochin stretch and also on the Quilon-Trivandrum stretch have commenced. Studies would also be undertaken of the Kottapuram-Badagara reach.

(c) The total expenditure upto November, 1989 incurred on the works undertaken is Rs. 30.96 lakhs.

Declaration of National Highways in Kerala

266. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government propose to declare any more roads in Kerala as National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether work on Calicut, Mahe and Tellicherry bye-passes has commenced;

(d) if so, the target dates fixed for completion of the works; and

(e) the allocations made for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). Cochin-Madurai road, a part length of which falls in Kerala, was declared as a new National Highway in February 1989. Proposals to declare more roads as National Highways, which include the Tellicherry Mysore and Calicut-Mysore roads, connecting Karnataka and Kerala are under consideration.

(c) to (e). Calicut bypass (28.12 km.) is divided into four phases. Land for phase-

1 (7.25 km.) has already been acquired, and estimate for its construction will be sanctioned shortly when the target for completion will be fixed. Land acquisition estimates for phases III and IV of this bypass have also been processed for sanction and the same for Phase II is under scrutiny. Construction work in these three phases will be taken up after completion of the land acquisition. There is a provision of Rs. 130 lakhs in the current year's budget for construction and land acquisition of this bypass.

Land acquisition estimate for Tellicherry Mahe bypass (11 km.) is under preparation by the State P.W.D., for which there is a budget provision of Rs. 20 lakhs in the current year's Plan. Target date for construction of the Tellicherry-Mahe bypass will be fixed after the land has been acquired.

Expansion of Nagpur Telephone Exchange

267. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing capacity of the Nagpur Telephone Exchange is frozen;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to expand the capacity of the Nagpur Telephone Exchange during the year 1990; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the expected waiting list likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No. Sir

(b) and (c). Yes Sir. Capacity of Nagpur exchange is proposed to be expanded by 4500 lines during 1990, from 10,000 to 14,500 lines. By this, the present waiting list will be cleared.