

(b) Besides the construction of parallel bypass road for Raipur town in Raipur Dist. approved under Central Road Fund during 1988 at an estimated cost of Rs. 132.293 lakhs amounting to Rs. 181.693 lakhs on National Highway No. 6 and 43 in Raipur Dist. have been approved during the last three years. No National Highway passes through Bilaspur District.

[English]

Bridges over River Ichhamati at Bongaon (W.B)

5596. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under active consideration a proposal to construct a modern Bridge over the river Ichhamati at Bongaon, North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal on the National Highway 35 replacing the existing Boat Bridge;

(b) if so, the present status of the Project; and

(c) the details of the project with estimated cost?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Technical particulars of the bridge have already been finalised and the detailed estimate is now to be submitted by the State PWD, after complying with Ministry's comments. The bridge when constructed will have a single span of 67 m. with steel truss superstructure and RCC viaducts on either side. This work has been included in the Annual Plan of sanctions for 1990-91.

[Translation]

Stamps on Parcels presented by Foreign Nationals

5597. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that foreign nationals are being cheated by stamping different values on parcels and their receipts through Franking machines; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to check these malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) Except an isolated incident pertaining to the year 1986 at Delhi, no such incident has come to notice of Government.

(b) Working of Post Offices is monitored through surprise visits and checks and suitable remedial action is taken in such cases.

[English]

Reported Chinese offer on Kashmir

5598. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI ERA ANBARASU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is reported to have offered to mediate in the Kashmir problem; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir.