

(a) whether Government propose to take early steps for the immediate maintenance of the Trivandrum-Kanyakumari National Highway which is in a very bad condition ;

(b) whether the old and unsafe bridges at Suchindram, Kuzhithurai and Nayyattinkarai are proposed to be replaced, renewed and widened ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take for the widening of this National Highway in view of the increasing heavy traffic there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) The maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. Depending upon the availability of funds, the 90 km. Trivandrum-Kanyakumari section of National Highway No. 47 is being maintained in traffic worthy condition by both Tamil Nadu and Kerala Governments in their respective States.

(b) Survey and investigations for replacement of Suchindram and Kuzhithurai bridges have been provided for in the annual programme for 1985-86. However Nayyattinkarai bridge is likely to be bye-passed and as such it is being maintained for the present.

(c) There is no proposal for widening the existing carriageway at present.

Mankhurd-Belapur Rail Line

2591. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bombay Metropolitan Transport Project Railways started in 1969 is likely to be dismantled and the services of the officers and staff employed discontinued ;

(b) if so, will this decision of the Railways not seriously impede the plan

for decongestion of the Metropolitan city of Bombay which is sought to be connected to New Bombay across the Thane Creek through the construction of the Mankhurd-Belapur Railway line ; and

(c) if so, whether Government would assure not to dismantle the Bombay Metropolitan Transport Project and not to discontinue the services of M.T.P. staff in the interest of bringing about decongestion of the Metropolitan city of Bombay ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Extension of Railway line from Mankhurd to Belapur has been approved and the work is in progress.

(c) Does not arise.

Officers and staff strength commensurate with the workload is being continued.

Rural Electrification in Sikkim

2592. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) how many villages have been electrified in Sikkim under the Rural Electrification Scheme ;

(b) what is the total financial assistance being given by the Centre in the current financial year for the implementation of the scheme in the State ; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the financial assistance to be given to Sikkim Government so as to achieve the target to electrify all villages by 1990 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) 194

revenue blocks/villages have been electrified in Sikkim as on 30.6.1985.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 1.65 crores has been earmarked for Sikkim's Rural Electrification Programme under R.E.C' financing during the current financial year.

(c) A provision of Rs. 10.79 crores has been tentatively indicated for the Rural Electrification Programme in Sikkim during the Seventh Plan.

**New Ships Commissioned at
Visakhapatnam Shipyard
During 1984-85**

2593. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new ships commissioned at the Visakhapatnam Shipyard Ltd. during the year 1984-85 ;

(b) the total number of employees in the Visakhapatnam Shipyard Ltd. engaged in building and manufacturing new ships ; and

(c) the estimated value of the ships commissioned during the year 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) During the year 1984-85, while two ships built at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam were delivered and commissioned, the Shipyard was engaged in the following 14 events :

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| (i) Keel Laying | 7 |
| (ii) Launching | 5 |
| (iii) Delivery | 2 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 14 |
| | <hr/> |

(b) The total number of employees employed for building ships is 7,651.

(c) The price, including Government subsidy, of these two vessels received by the Shipyard is Rs. 36,22,51,321.00.

[Translation]

Sutled Yamuna Line Canal

2594. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) when was the agreement for construction of Sutlej-Yamuna link canal signed between the Government of Punjab and Haryana and what were the terms of this agreement ;

(b) whether the Punjab Government have paid the amount of their share for this construction work and if not, the reason therefore ; and

(c) how much amount is outstanding and by which time the amount is likely to be paid and the construction work of this canal will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The Agreement regarding the allocation of waters of the Ravi and Beas signed by Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on 31-12-1981 also covered the implementation of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal Project. It stipulated the completion of the Project in a period of two years from the date of signing of the Agreement. It also provided for the cost of the Project to be borne by Haryana. However, this was subsequently changed to a pattern of sharing of costs between Haryana and Punjab in the proportion of 5 : 1.

(b) and (c) : Out of the Expenditure of Rs. 53 crores stated to have been incurred so far on the Project, the Punjab Government has paid Rs. 1 crore and about Rs. 8 crores are outstanding. The non-payment of its full share by the Punjab Government is said to be due to financial constraints. The construction work of this Canal is to be completed by 15th August, 1986.