

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation schemes being implemented in Bihar and the details thereof ;

(b) the reasons for delay in the completion of these schemes and the original and the present estimates of these schemes ;

(c) whether Union Government propose to take over Sitamarhi Bagmati Project which is being neglected for years ; and

(d) how many more irrigation projects of Bihar are still under consideration ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a), (b) & (d) 12 major and 27 medium on-going schemes are under implementation. Further, 5 major and 14 medium new schemes have been proposed by the State Government in the Seventh Plan. Out of these, 39 are approved, 17 are under examination and project reports for two are awaited. The main reasons for delay in completion are shortage of funds on account of proliferation of projects, difficulties in land acquisition and shortage of scarce construction material. Since the costs are escalating, the present costs of these projects cannot be indicated.

(c) There is no such proposal.

[English]

**Darbhanga-Forbesganj road under Lateral Road Project**

1662. SHRI D. P. YADAVA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a small missing link called Darbhanga-Forbesganj road under Lateral Road Project which has been awaiting completion for a long time;

(b) whether Government are aware that this is a road of vital importance from defence point of view and its completion will boost the economy of the North Indo-Gangetic Zone ;

(c) if so, the time by which it will be completed and the quantum of Central assistance to be given ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (d) The Lateral Road Project running from Bareilly in U.P. to Amingaon (Gauwahati) in Assam has since long been completed through grant-in-aid from the Central Government. However, the Darbhanga-Forbesganj Road link does not follow the Lateral Road alignment. It has also no defence-oriented priority. Moreover, due to financial constraints it is not possible to take up the road in question under any Centrally sponsored schemes, at present.

[Translation]

**Manmad-Painth-Balsad Section Railway Line**

1663. SHRI S. S. BHOYE : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey work for the Manmad-Painth-Balsad Section railway line is likely to be conducted to link Central Railway and Western Railway ;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering any proposal to link them and the time by which the survey is likely to be started ; and

(c) whether any provision has been made in the Seventh Five Year Plan for the above railway line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

**Non-availability of wagons in Maharashtra for transporting grapes, onions and other vegetables**

1664. SHRI S.S. BHOYE : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state ;