

(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 ;

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the farmers are put to heavy loss due to non-availability of railway-wagons in time for transporting grapes, onions and other vegetables from one place to another in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to avoid this loss; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The demand for transportation of perishable traffic like fruits and vegetables in Maharashtra is being met in consultation with trade.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Non-official committees to improve working of hospitals

1665. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to form Committees of social workers and voluntary bodies to improve the conditions of Central Government hospitals in Delhi and Centrally administered Union territories; and

(b) if so, what will be the functions and powers of these Committees ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Central assistance for irrigation in tribal sub-plan area

1666. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of Central assistance provided for irrigation works in tribal sub-plan area during Sixth Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(d) what were the criteria for allocating central assistance to States for irrigation Sector in tribal sub-plan areas;

(c) whether assistance was low; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the details of allocations under tribal sub-plan during the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Out of a total Special Central Assistance of Rs. 485.50 crores for Tribal Sub-plan, about Rs. 48 crores was provided by the States for irrigation schemes. Only minor irrigation schemes which directly benefit the tribal farmers are generally eligible for funds for Special Central Assistance.

(d) Special Central Assistance of Rs. 756 crores has been tentatively allocated under tribal Sub-Plan during the 7th Plan.

Dutch help in the field of navigation

1667. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dutch help has been sought for navigation purpose on the occasion of recent Netherlands Royal Couple's visit to India; and

(b) if so, the details of Indo-Dutch talks in the field of navigation and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) Following projects for development of inland water transport have been posed to the Government of Netherlands for implementation with Dutch assistance under Indo-Dutch Co-operation on Shipping and Transport :—

(i) Pilot Project for Patna-Allahabad stretch of National Waterway (Ganga);