

ing Group set up by the Government has evaluated the various sites proposed by the State Governments for location of new shipyards during the Fifth Plan period. Three foreign consultants have been engaged to prepare Preliminary Project Reports on the four sites, including Haldia, recommended by the Techno Economic Working Group. A decision regarding the location of the proposed two shipyards will be taken after receipt of their Preliminary Project Reports, expected to be received by the end of February, 1975.

Payment to Blood Donors

2471. SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state the basis on which the professional blood donors are paid Rs. 15 for 250 cc. blood?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): No information is available regarding the basis on which the rate was fixed.

Torsa Bridge on National Highway No. 31

2472. SHRI KUMAR MAJHI:
SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount was sanctioned for the Torsa Bridge on National Highway No. 31 in the Annual Plan for 1972-73;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned and the work proposed to be done; and

(c) whether the bridge has been completed, if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI):
(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Construction of Road from Darbhanga in Bihar to Forbesganj

2473. SHRI M. S. PURTY:
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:
SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the broad outlines of the project for the construction of road from Darbhanga in Bihar to Forbesganj; and

(b) the progress likely to be made during Fifth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI):
(a) and (b). Originally the project was very roughly estimated to cost Rs. 23.5 crores. The cost estimate has gone up to Rs. 53.36 crores which provides for the construction of an altogether new road (144 Kms.) with new bridges. However, due to financial limitations, it is now proposed to phase out the works so as to ensure that attention could be concentrated immediately on certain missing gaps like Kosi Bridge, Kamla Balan Bridge and some other minor bridges including their approaches, missing road sections, etc., and use made, for the time being, of the existing roads in the area with existing bridges thereon with their present capacity and upgrading fair weather roads in certain sections, other improvements being taken up in the Sixth plan or later. The rough cost of the works on this phased out basis would be Rs. 35.32 crores, expenditure during the Fifth Plan being limited to