

[English]

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED: Once again, I am afraid that this is not within the purview of this question.

MR. SPEAKER: This does not come out of the question.

[Translation]

**Widening of G. T. Road Between Varanasi and Dehri-on-sona**

\*438. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Grand Trunk road between Varanasi and Dehri-on-Sone is not traffic worthy,

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to widen the aforesaid section of the road;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount spent on the development of this section during the last three years?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). National Highway No. 2 (G.T. Road) between Varanasi and Dehri-on-Sone is generally being maintained in traffic worthy condition. There is no proposal at present for widening to 4 lanes this section except for a 4 km. length of Sasaam Bazar for which an estimate of Rs. 177.48 lakhs has been recently sanctioned.

(d) An allotment of Rs. 230.68 lakhs has been made for original works development in this section during the last three years (1988-89 to 1990-91).

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Mr.

Speaker Sir, the condition of G.T. Road between Sasaram and Dehri-on-Sone is very bad. It is not traffic worthy. I have specifically asked the hon. Minister whether it is traffic worthy or not. He did not give a clear cut reply. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many accidents did take place and how many people died last year for want of traffic worthiness of this road. How long does the Government want to keep it an accident prone road.

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I had mentioned that we are maintaining it as a road worthy and the traffic can go. I cannot give you the number of accidents which had taken place. But I can assure the hon. Member that the money has been sanctioned for strengthening this part of the road. And rather I just mentioned that even the work of widening to four lanes on Sasaram for a four km. length is in progress. Also I would like to inform the hon. Member that a lot of money has been sanctioned to that particular State. But due to many reasons such as strikes, the contractors are being threatened, the people are not coming out to work there. I would request you to see that normal conditions prevail in that particular State. The contractors have been coming from other States and they have been bringing in lakhs of rupees worth of machinery there. The machines are being stolen and the contractors are being threatened. But we have sanctioned money from the Centre and the work is in progress. But I am afraid to say that work is not according to my satisfaction because of the reasons which I have just mentioned.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister said that the work of widening the road to four lanes is in progress at Sasaram. At Varanasi also the G.T. Road covers about 7 kms. In view of this has the Government any scheme to start the work of widening the road to four lanes at Varanasi also? If so, will it be done this year or next year keeping in view the density of traffic in the city?

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, I cannot assure the hon. Member in this House you please send me this scheme. I will examine it.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he said that the condition of road from Varanasi to Dehri-on-Sone is very bad. In this connection I would like to know from the hon. Minister the criteria followed for construction of four lane roads. What should be the rate of traffic on the national Highway for constructing four lane roads. The road from Varanasi to Dehri-on-Sone is one of the busiest roads in the country. I would like to know the criteria followed so that I can assess whether it is covered by the norms. What would the Government like to do, because the location of development which he has mentioned is just like a drop in the ocean.

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I have myself mentioned many times in this House that I myself am not getting enough money. If I have enough money, I would even do the four laning myself. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Please state the rate of traffic at which the Government constructs four lane roads?

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: It all depends on how much funds we get.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether funds are short for Bihar only. Because the hon. Minister has said that the G.T. Road which runs via Varanasi to Dehri falls in Bihar. That is why I wanted to know whether like other Govern-

ments this Government also runs sort of funds for Bihar.

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I would like to inform the hon. Member that I had mentioned this.

[Translation]

The Government has allocated Rs. 771 lakh for Bihar and the construction work is going on. I have already given the reasons as to why the construction work is going slow. It is not our fault. Please create such a situation which would help in expediting the work and utilising the funds properly

[English]

I would like to inform the hon. Member who had made a reference to Varanasi that the Varanasi bypass is being made and the work is in progress.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister said about the overcrowdedness of traffic at G.T. Road in Varanasi. In order to check this overcrowdedness a bypass of G.T. Road along a distance of 6 kms from Varanasi is being constructed and a bridge over Ganga is being constructed after the name of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the construction work relating to the bridge and the bypass of G. T. Road have been held up? I want to know as to why it has been held up and when will it be restarted.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per my information, the work has not been held up. Since the hon. Member has informed me, I will get it enquired into.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question Hour is over.