

(a) whether the construction work on National Highway between Pasrata and Narayanpur in Khagaria District of Bihar is going on for the last many years and has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for early completion of the work for the smooth flow of traffic?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. All the works sanctioned for improvement of this section earlier under the regular development programme have been completed. However, flood damage repair works sanctioned during the last financial year are in progress. These are likely to be completed by June, 1990.

[English]

Arappuzha Bridge in Kerala

6637. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the proposal to construct Arappuzha bridge in Kerala at the first reach of Kozhikode bye-pass; and

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned for the construction?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). The work of construction of Arappuzha bridge is provided in the Annual Plan 1990-91 at an estimated cost Rs. 500.00 lakhs and the Technical proposal received from the State Government has been approved.

[Translation]

Pilgrimage to Hinglaj Mata's Temple

6638. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the location of Hinglaj Mata's temple in Pakistan;

(b) whether Hindu pilgrims are allowed to go there;

(c) if so, the number of Hindu pilgrims who have visited that temple since independence; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by Government to get the temple opened to Hindu pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Hinglaj Mata's temple is located in District Lasbela (Balochistan) in Pakistan.

(b) to (d) Government have requested the Government of Pakistan to open up more shrines, including Mata Hinglaj's temple, to pilgrims from India and the matter remains under the latter's consideration.

[English]

Construction and Improvement of National Highways in Punjab

6639. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total kilometres of National Highways constructed, improved, and repaired in Punjab during the year 1989-90; and