

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Irrigation Projects Behind Schedule

1400. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN:
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR:
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD
SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the irrigation projects whose completion has been behind schedule and the projects whose commissioning has been delayed ;

(b) what are the main reasons for the delay in the completion/commissioning of these projects ;

(c) the extent to which the escalation in the cost of these projects is anticipated because of the delay in their completion/commissioning ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for their expeditious completion/commissioning ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER
RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARA-
NAND) : (a) Most of the 434 ongoing major and medium projects which were started before the Sixth Plan are running behind schedule.

(b) The main reasons, among others, include inadequate investigations of projects at the formulation stage, proliferation of projects, scarcity of resources, difficulties in land acquisition and change in the scope of the projects.

(c) The cost escalation varies from project to project and depends among others upon the period of completion.

(d) The State Governments have been advised to priorities the projects for optimal allocation of the available resources and lay

stress on the completion of ongoing projects. They have also been advised to strictly follow the guidelines with regard to project formulation. Further, the Union Government is earmarking the plan outlays for important projects and is also arranging external assistance wherever possible, to step up resources.

Improvement of National Highway Nos. 31 and 32 in Bihar

1401. DR. C. P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the condition of National Highway Nos. 31, 32 and Patna bypass in Bihar is very unsatisfactory ; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps being taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) The condition of N.H. 31 in Bihar was generally satisfactory prior to monsoon of 1986. However, in the monsoon of 1986, this National Highway was damaged in several stretches. Essential repairs to make it traffic worthy are already in hand.

The condition of N. H. 32 passing through Bihar is generally satisfactory except in built up portion of Kendu-Karkend villages in Km. 17-19 of Dhanbad-Chas section. Estimates for repairs including those for built up areas have recently been received and are being processed for approval.

The condition of Patna Bypass Phase I is satisfactory but the condition of Patna Bypass Phase II has deteriorated. The estimate for 1st stage strengthening of Patna Bypass Phase-II amounting of Rs. 1,06,39,000/- is being sanctioned for the work to be taken up in hand.

Conversion of Yelahanka-Bangarpet Railway Line

1402. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the railway line between Yelahanka to Bangarpet via Chikkaballapur in Karnataka into broad gauge line ;