

Authority for maintenance, construction of roads, and planning on National Highways; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The National Highway Authority has been constituted with effect from 15th June, 1989 in pursuance of the provisions of the National Highway Authority of India Act 1988. The objectives of this Authority are to develop maintain and manage the National Highways including other matters related to it. The Act envisages that the Authority shall consist of a Chairman and not more than five full time Members and for part-time Members.

Patna-Bihra-Koilwar-Arrah by-pass Road

1071. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the progress of the Patna-Bihra-Koilwar-Arrah by-pass road alongwith the new bridge over river Koilwar ; and

(b) what is the estimated cost of this project?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) The alignment of the by-pass has generally been approved and detailed survey and investigations are in progress.

(b) It is too early to indicate the cost of the project.

Commercial advertisement in the Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra

1072. SHRI DAVID LEDGER : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce provision for commercial advertisements in the Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up new TV Relay Centre at Dhubri, Barpete, Jorhat and North Lakhimpur in Assam ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) :

(a) and (b) Commercial advertisements are envisaged to be introduced from Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati as soon as necessary infrastructure, including staff, is available.

(c) and (d) A low power (100 W) TV transmitter each is already functioning at Dhubri and Jorhat. Whereas Barpete receives TV service from the high power (10 KW) TV transmitter functioning at Guwahati, North Lakhimpur is expected to be covered by the high power (1 KW) TV transmitter under implementation at Itanagar.