

signs of improvement. It is likely that the Shipping Companies will have better financial results before long.

**Passenger ship from Bombay to Mangalore**

1002. SHRI B. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state by when the passenger ships from Bombay to Mangalore will start sailing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Government have no proposal at present to operate a passenger shipping service between Bombay and Mangalore.

**Construction of Bridge on N. H. No. 17**

1003. SHRI B. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) by when the bridge connecting National Highway No. 17 at Karwal in Karnataka is likely to be completed;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in the completion of the said work; and

(c) what are the details of amount already spent on the said bridge and what would be its total cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member desires information about the bridge under construction on N.H. 17 at Karwar (and not Karwal) in Karnataka over Kali river. This bridge is likely to be completed by July, 1982, barring unforeseen circumstances. The work of Southern-approach to the bridge has been practically completed, and that of Northern approach is likely to be completed by middle of 1981.

(b) The reasons for the delay in the completion of the bridge and its approaches are as under:—

*Bridge proper.*

(i) Non-availability of materials like mild steel plates and structurals required for well foundations in the initial stages of construction.

(ii) Difficult well foundations in pinnacle type rocky strata involving pneumatic sinking which is a slow process.

(iii) Insufficient inputs by the Contractors.

*Approaches:*

The work involves huge quantities of rock cutting requiring blasting (46547 Cu. metres). The space available for working is limited which inhibits quick progress. Also, there was shortage of blasting material required for the excavation work.

(c) The total likely cost of the work under National Highway Scheme and the expenditure incurred so far are as follows:

	Total cost <sup>1</sup>	Expenditure Incurred
	(Rs. lakhs)	(Rs. lakhs)
Bridge proper	275.00	181.37
<i>Approaches</i>		
Northern approach	25.03	10.42
Southern approach	6.87	6.87
	306.95	198.66

1004. [Transferred to the 14th August, 1980].

**Protection of fishing rights at Katchchativu Island**

1005. SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken any steps for protecting the fishing rights of fishermen in Katch-