

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No. However, due to limited availability of funds and the need to expedite old and on-going projects like Viramgam-Okha, Barabanki-Samastipur and New Bongaigaon-Gauhati conversions, it has been possible to allot only limited funds for the Manmad-Aurangabad section. During next year also, it is proposed to allot some funds for this work and the work would continue. As soon as some of the major projects mentioned above are completed within the next two years, it would be possible to allot more funds and speed up the work.

285. [Transferred to the 20th March, 1980].

Debts of Shipping Corporation of India

286. **SHRI R. R. MORARKA:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large debts are outstanding for over a year against the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to wipe out the debts?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction of a bye-pass on G.T. Road

287. **SHRI SHYAMLAL YADAV:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an urgent need of a bye-pass on G. T. Road for the city of Varanasi and Mughal Sarai for which a bridge on Ganga is necessary; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b) Construction of a bye-pass and the requisite Ganga river bridge have been included in the programme of new works for improvement on National Highways drawn up for the 1978-83 Plan period. Preliminary investigations and surveys for the project have been authorised to enable the project estimate being prepared. Investment decision will be taken subject to priorities and financial constraints when the project estimates are available.

Repairs of G.T. Road

288. **SHRI SHAYMLAL YADAV:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the G. T. Road between Raja Talab to Chandauli has been under repairs for the last three years and that no progress has been made so far; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to expedite the repairs?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b) The work of widening the earlier single lane reach to double lane and strengthening the existing double-lane reach in 37 km. length of Raja Talab-Chandauli Section of G. T. Road is in progress for the past few years. The work of widening single lane to two-lane has been completed in the entire reach and that of strengthening with bituminous treatment has been completed in the major portion of Raja Talab to Chandauli reach. Subject to availability of bitumen and diesel, which is in short supply, the balance work is likely to be completed by March, 1981.

289. [Transferred to the 20th March, 1980].