

**Construction of bridge by BRO**

3486. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has not been able to construct and complete a bridge on Highway at Sopore in Jammu and Kashmir in nearly ten years;

(b) whether the person responsible for dereliction of duty would be identified and punished; and

(c) what is new schedule within which the same bridge would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) to (c) The contract for construction of 216 m bridge over river Jhelam on Sopore bypass was awarded to M/s Mirsons Construction Pvt. Ltd. by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in March, 2004 with target date of completion by March, 2008. Due to law and order/ security problems in Kashmir Valley, particularly in Sopore town coupled with unfavourable working seasons as well as poor performance of the contractor, there is a delay in construction of the bridge. However, after constant pursuance by BRO, the contractor has accelerated the progress of work at site. At present, 90% of the work has been completed. Show cause notices and warnings have been issued to the contractor by BRO from time to time as per conditions stipulated in the contract. Further, department has taken a serious note on the slow performance of the contractor and further award of tenders/ contracts to the firm has been stopped. The efforts are on with revised schedule to complete the bridge by March, 2015 if law & order conditions in Sopore town remain favourable for working at bridge site.

**Bypasses on NHs in Kerala**

3487. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed the necessity and demand for making bypasses along National Highways (NHs) near major cities in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of proposals pending relating thereto; and

(c) whether any planning has been done to complete the works and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) to (c) To remove traffic congestion, construction