

[19 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) to (d) The matter has been discussed in a jointmeeting of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Defence, Government of West Bengal and National Highways Authority of India and accordingly, a proposal for carrying out survey and investigation for the existing alignment of NH-31C has been submitted to Ministry of Environment and Forest for necessary clearance. Final decision has not been taken.

Financial condition of Road Transport Corporation

†1749. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration for improving the financial condition of Government Road Transport Corporation;

(b) if so, the proposed facilities as per the scheme;

(c) by when a decision would be taken in this regard; and

(d) whether there is any provision for providing any special facility to any State in this regard; if so, the name of the State and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Public Transport Corporation

†1750. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA. Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that almost all the Public Transport Corporations are running in losses and their economic situation is exceedingly pitiable;

(b) whether Government have its share capital in such Corporation; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take to keep such Corporations in profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) State Road Transport Corporations are managed by the State Governments concerned. As per information available, most of these Corporations, for which data is available, are incurring losses.

(b) Central Government had invested share capital in the Corporations under Road Transport Corporation Act, 1950, in the past. However, this scheme was discontinued by Planning Commission in the year 1993-94.

(c) Action for making Corporations profitable, needs to be taken by the management of Corporations which is vested in the respective State Governments.

Road connecting Kishanganj to Gopalganj in Bihar

†1751. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the road of National Highway Development Project connecting the country from West to East connects Kishanganj to Gopalganj in Bihar and its Detailed Project Report has been prepared; and

(b) if so, by when the construction work on NH-57 alongwith the construction of a bridge on the Koshi would commence and by which year the same would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) It is a fact that East-West corridor under National Highways Development Project connects Kishanganj and Gopalganj. The connection is *via* Purnea and Muzaffarpur. Detailed Project Report from Kishanganj to Purnea and Muzaffarpur to Gopalganj has been completed. Detailed Project Report from Purnea to Muzaffarpur is in progress.

(c) The work is targeted to be awarded by December 2004 and completed by December 2007.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.