

The above findings have been put in practical use at Nangal unit of National Fertilizers Limited for NOX abatement and biological treatment of plant effluent at Sindri unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited. The biological treatment system has also been adopted in Durgapur unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited.

Various R & D laboratories are trying to develop agronomically efficient fertilizer products, including coated urea to decrease the solubility of the product. This will improve the efficiency of these products, to the advantage of the farmers. However, a commercially viable product is yet to be developed.

[English]

#### Maintenance of National Highways

\*756. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a new Agency for the maintenance and development of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) An Authority known as National Highways Authority of India has been set up w.e.f. 15.6.1989, under an Act of Parliament, 1988 (68 of 1988), to develop, maintain and manage the National Highways entrusted to it by the Central Government. The Authority has now become functional with the appointment of Chairman and two Members w.e.f. 10.02.95, 01.03.95 & 04.04.95 respectively

[Translation]

#### Pepsi Industry

\*757. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state.

(a) the details of food items being produced by the Pepsi industry and the benefit accrued to the farmers therefrom;

(b) whether the said industry is functioning as per expectations;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction; of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The details of the food items being

manufactured by Pepsi industry are - Tomato paste, Fresh red chilly paste, Potato chips/extruded corn snacks, Soft drinks and soft drink concentrates and Fruit drinks. The farmers of Punjab have benefitted from the improved strains and practices introduced by M/s. Pepsi Foods Ltd. In respect of fruit and vegetable crops.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Indians in Foreign Jails

\*758. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in jails in foreign countries, country-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the release of these Indians, country-wise; and

(c) the number of them released during the last three years and during the current year, so far country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

As on 30.9.1994, 5304 Indian nationals were in jails in foreign countries. The country-wise figures are given at Annexure-I.

Indians Missions follow up all cases vigorously with the local authorities for review and expeditious release. Apart from regular meetings with the jail authorities, matters are taken up as and when necessary with the respective Foreign Offices. However, a number of Governments do not entertain requests for review of the term of imprisonment decided by a court of law and release prisoners on completion of their term of imprisonment. Indian Missions make all efforts to ensure that effective legal defence is available to the prisoners.

#### ANNEXURE-I

##### Number of Indians in Foreign Prisons abroad as on 30.9.94.

S.No.	Name of Country	No. of Indian Prisoners
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Australia	4
2.	Austria	79