

(b) and (c). Funds for maintenance and repairs of National Highways are worked out as per approved norms. However, the actual overall availability, which includes the State of West Bengal is of the order of 50% or so of the requirements.

(d) and (e). It will depend upon the availability of funds.

Congestion on National Highways

27. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE :
SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to remove the encroachment on the National Highways and to prevent commercial activities along the road;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made/being made by the Government to remove congestion on the National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARAMURTHY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The State Public Works departments, as agents of the Central Government, carry out removal of encroachments on National Highways as a continuous process, under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(c) For removal of congestion of National Highways, the Government is undertaking activities like widening, construction of bypasses and Road-over-Bridges, etc. within the available Plan allocations.

Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950

28. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nepal has asked for certain changes in 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship; and

(b) if so, the details of the changes that have been suggested by Nepal and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). No

precise proposals for specific changes in the Treaty have been made by Nepal. During the visit to India of the former Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Manmohan Adhikari, discussions covered different aspects of bilateral relations, including review of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950. The two sides agreed to continue discussions on this and all relevant issues of bilateral interest at the appropriate level of the two countries.

Kayamkulam Power Project

29. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :
PROF. K.V. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a final decision has been taken by the N.T.P.C. to start the work on the Kayamkulam Power Project;

(b) if so, the source of finance;

(c) the details of amount allotted for the implementation and the estimated cost of the project; and

(d) the expected time for completion of the project and when it will start producing power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per Government approval accorded in August 1995, the funding of the project which is being implemented by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is through internal resources of the company, market borrowings and external commercial borrowings. However, in order to utilise the funds available under US\$ 400 million time slice loan from the World Bank, efforts are being made by NTPC for approval of World Bank/Government to the same.

(c) As per investment approval accorded by the Government in August, 1995, the estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1310.58 crores based on 3rd quarter, 1994 price level. A provision of Rs.6.63 crores in the revised estimates 1995-96 and Rs.170.57 crores in the budget estimates 1996-97 has been proposed for this project.

(d) The first gas turbine of the project is scheduled to be commissioned in February, 1998. All other units are scheduled to be commissioned by February, 1999.