

out-shedding position by Depot Manager during morning and evening hours, effective monitoring to correct imbalance and ensuring provision of spares to remove shortage, if any.

A proposal for introduction of Luxury buses in Delhi is being implemented by Delhi Administration on experimental basis.

Rice + 93
Construction of Bridge on River Muniyeru in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh

36. SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the spans of the bridge on river Muniyeru at Kusara in Krishna District Andhra Pradesh collapsed some years back causing serious inconvenience and additional expenditure for truck operators on National Highway No. 9;

(b) the latest estimated cost of the new bridge being constructed by the U.P. Bridge Construction Corporation; and

(c) the date by which construction of the bridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 499.14 lakhs.

(c) Bridge including its approaches is likely to be completed by August, 1992.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

37. SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position regarding the foreign exchange reserves; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Foreign Exchange Reserves (excluding gold and SDR) as on 5th July, 1991 were Rs. 2651 crores.

(b) To improve the reserves level position the Government proposes to:

(i) Continue, in the short run, the import compression measures, accelerate the utilisation of already committed external aid and explore additional financing facilities including the use of IMF facilities.

(ii) In the medium term, it is proposed to reduce the trade gap through more vigorous export promotion measures, augmentation of net invisible receipts through increased receipts from services including tourism receipts, and increased capital flows consistent with financial prudence and their productive use. Measures to attract foreign direct investment as well as encouragement for larger capital inflows from non-resident Indians are also proposed to be taken consistent with our overall economic policies.

Withdrawal of Crop Loans to Farmers

38. SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued any directions to the nationalised banks not to give crop loans to the farmers upto September, 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its likely effect on agricultural production in the current kharif season; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve