

to enter into construction and maintenance of roads and also to run public transport system as suggested by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry:

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The private sector is already participating in many areas of the public transportation system. About 2/3rds of the passenger buses in the country are owned and operated by private operators. The private construction companies are playing a dominant role in undertaking road and bridge construction projects, funded by Government. Further ways of associating private sector with the financing of road construction are being examined by Government.

- (c) Does not arise.

National Highways in Maharashtra

412. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen and develop National Highways passing through Maharashtra especially in backward region of Western Maharashtra, during 1991-92 and 1992-93;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH

TYTLER): (a) to (c) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and works are sanctioned keeping in view the traffic intensity, existing conditions of the National Highways, inter se priority on all-India basis and availability of funds. Accordingly for Maharashtra works costing Rs. 325.45 crores including works costing Rs. 53.10 crores in Western Maharashtra have been included in the Annual Plan of works to be sanctioned during 1991-92. Such Annual Plan for 1992-93 is yet to be prepared.

[Translation]

Implementation of One-Rank One Pension Scheme to Ex-Servicemen

413. PROF. PREM DHUMAL : SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the one-rank, one-pension scheme for the ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be implemented; and

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A scheme for the grant of an ad-hoc exgratia increase in pension to Armed forces personnel below officer rank who retired before 1-1-1986 was approved by the Government on 1-11-90. The next Government considered the matter but deferred decision on the issue. The entire matter shall