

(b) to (d) Government's endeavour is always to promote exports of value added products. Therefore, quotas for export of cotton are released by Government after fully catering to the requirements of the domestic textile industry, including handloom and powerloom sectors to encourage them to export value added items.

[English]

**Steamer Services Between Bombay and Ratnagiri**

438 SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to strengthen the steamer services between Bombay and Ratnagiri;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have permitted M/s Satva Giri Shipping Company to acquire two High Speed Catamarans. Reeflink-II and Capricorn Reef-Seeker, for playing on the Bombay-Ratnagiri-Panaji route. This Shipping Company has since deposited initial payments to the seller in respect of Reeflink-II while the sanction for acquisition of Reef-seeker is valid upto 14-8-1991. The Government have also permitted

M/s Link-on-Sea-Link to acquire a Catamaran to ply on Bombay-Goa route and this sanction is valid upto 31-10-1991.

(c) Does not arise.

**National Highway No. 17**

439. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop and widen the National Highway No. 17 (Panvel to Goa);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the allocation made during the last three years for this National Highway was very low in comparison to other National Highways, and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the amount of allocation for this National Highway during the current Financial year

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

(b) Development including widening of 80 km. length of the National Highway No. 17 at a cost of Rs. 27.95 crores has been proposed in the Annual Plan for sanction during 1991-92.

(c) and (d) The allocation is not made separately for each highway. The allocation is made State-wise.