

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: A little while ago, the Hon. Minister has talked about certain crisis of confidence generated among the international agencies as a result of the behaviour of the erst-while Government. Now, may I ask the Hon. Minister regarding the so-called mortgage of gold by the RBI, the transaction between RBI and the Bank of England which is said to be an act of mortgage rather than a direct sale? Now, when a person who has made a pledge, a mortgage and immediately afterwards hastens to transport that mortgaged property to the creditors' house, does that inspire the creditors confidence?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: May be that mortgaged property is not documented. That is the question.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I can say with full confidence that what we have done has convinced the international credit institutions, our international creditors and non-resident Indians that this country takes very seriously its international obligations. And there is return of confidence all over the world in India.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the next question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I have a submission to make. You have allowed Members from that side to put questions. Please allow me also from this side to put a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Projects from Maharashtra Pending Clearance

***102 SHRI PRAKASHBAPU VASANTRAO PATIL:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the projects and schemes proposed by the Government of Maharashtra pending clearance; and

(b) the action taken in each case so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) From the Government of Maharashtra 17 project estimates for works on National Highways aggregating to Rs. 156.03 crores, proposals for 11 roads to be declared as new National Highways and proposals for 801 Schemes aggregating to Rs. 359.82 crores under Central Road Fund, have been received

(b) Sanction of project estimates would be possible only after the regular budget 1991-92 is passed. Decision regarding New National Highways would be taken after finalisation of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Schemes under Central Road Fund could not be considered for sanction as actual augmentation of the Fund has not yet taken place.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASHBAPU VASANTRAO PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government had promised in

1988 that 5 per cent of the surcharge levied on petrol and diesel would be paid to the State Governments. But no amount under this head has so far been received from the Centre even after three years. What the Hon. Minister has to say in this regard? Also, what action has been taken in regard to ongoing major works of roads and bridges in Maharashtra?

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER The decision which was taken by the both Houses of Parliament in 1988 has not been accepted as yet by the Finance Minister. Still have not received the money. (Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOU-DHURY In spite of the recommendation of the House. The previous Prime Minister had committed that they would release the money immediately. (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER Would you let me finish my answer? I am going back to the Cabinet again to implement the same decision which the House had taken. (Interruptions) Sir, I have four major road projects which are the most important ones about which the former Chief Minister here would be happy to know that the rehabilitation payment to Bombay is there which they have been asking for and to which the Hon. Member is referring. I would like to inform that this is a 60 kms long road totally and last year in December we had sanctioned about Rs. 17 crores and the work is in the advanced stage of progress, only 10 kms. is left.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASHBAPU VASANT-RAO PATIL Sir, the Government of Maharashtra has sent a number of proposals to the Central Government regarding privatisation of roads. I would like to know what assistance the Central Government proposes to give in the matter? Is the Government considering to issue sanction to the Mangal-bedha-Jai-Belgaon road shortly?

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER This is a question of the change of the Act. The change of the Act is required before we go in for privatisation which I feel will be coming in this session. Otherwise in the next session surely we will be coming for this privatisation which is coming in the way. I am very much interested and my ministry is interested in going in for privatisation of the roads.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the Konkan belt, that is the coastal region. The development process has totally eluded this belt for the last 40 years and the main reason is lack of communication facilities. We have got only one road, that is Bombay-Goa Highway which in no way can be termed as a highway because there are many stretches where we can only drive at a speed of 20 kms per hour. The first priority of the Hon. Member should be to do something about this highway.

The second thing is that Maharashtra Government has given proposal

for eleven roads to be termed as national highways. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether any priority is being given to this and whether the Western Coastal Highway is being given priority number one due to the backwardness of this coastal region.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I have received 17 proposals from the Maharashtra Government of which eleven we are considering. But everything will depend—after the presentation of the Budget—as to how much money our Ministry receives. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER. This a question relating to Maharashtra. So I would rather like Maharashtra Members to ask questions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was earlier stated that among the 17 projects, estimates in respect of which have been submitted, was a proposal for widening Dahisar—Manore section on Bombay—Ahmedabad National Highway measuring 78 kms. into four tracks. I would like to know whether that proposal has been included in it? If so, what is the cost thereof?

[*English*]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I had just told you that I have received 17 proposals out of which 11 proposals as the national highways. I can only take a decision after I know what sort of money I am receiving.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, please give me protection. I have asked in

the Bombay—Ahmedabad highway there was a proposal for widening 78 kms. into four tracks. I would like to know whether that has been included in the 11 projects he has referred.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : There is a Bombay—Ahmedabad—Nanded—Jageshpur road—660 kms. I cannot tell you at this particular point whether the road you are referring to is included or not. If it is a part of this road, then it must be included in this.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : May I know from the Hon Minister as to what has been the contribution of Maharashtra during the last two years towards the Central Road Fund and out of that Central Road Fund what has been the total disbursement percentagewise during the last two years to Maharashtra for the improvement of roads in the State?

MR. SPEAKER : If the Minister has the statistics he can supply them later on.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I will supply him later on.

Balance of Trade

*103. **SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :**

SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the actual balance of trade in rupees/SDRs during the last three financial years, year-wise;