

Tellicherry—Chithradurga National Highway

675. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preliminary work of Tellicherry—Chithradurga National Highway has been completed; and

(b) if so, the time by which this National Highway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Tellicherry—Chithradurga road is on State Highway network and is not a part of the National Highway system. The Governments of Kerala and Karnataka are responsible for its development.

NRI Problems Regarding Direct Investment

676. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of non-resident Indians has recently submitted a memorandum in connection with various problems relating to direct investment in India;

(b) if so, the details of the memorandum; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

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

(a) to (c) Government receives from time to time various memoranda/suggestions from NRIs/NRI organisations to simplify procedure, review policies and to provide better incentives to create a more favourable climate for NRI investments. These suggestions are duly examined and implemented to the extent they fit in the

overall objective of development and increasing foreign exchange inflows. Constant effort is also made to streamline the procedure and remove bottlenecks and irritants for prospective NRI investors.

Introduction of New Tank, Air-craft, and Missiles

677. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main battle tank 'ARJUN', Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and different missiles are ready for introduction in the Defence Forces;

(b) if so, when these are likely to be introduced;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in their production and the likely increase in the cost as a result thereof;

(d) whether any decision has been taken for procurement/construction of the new aircraft carrier for the Navy; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Main battle tank 'ARJUN', Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and different missiles are at various stages of development/evaluation.

(b) Main battle tank 'ARJUN' is expected to be introduced into service after completion of trials by Army in 1992. Delivery of LCA to Air Force is likely to commence during first half of the next decade. The surface-to-Surface missile PRITHVI and Surface-to air missile TRISHUL are likely to be introduced in Army in 1992. Third generation anti-tank missile NAG and medium range Surface-to-air missile AKASH are expected to be delivered to Services in 1994 and 1995 respectively.