

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused to the bridge;

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the repairs to this bridge; and

(d) the time by which the repairs are likely to be completed?

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

(b) The central span of the arch bridge was damaged and piers cracked.

(c) and (d) The State Government have incurred Rs. 1.00 lakh to carry out temporary repairs of the bridge, after which it was opened to traffic in November, 1990.

Setting up of Major Port at Hajira

707. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts had recommended setting up of a major port at Hajira (Surat-Gujarat) several years ago;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for setting up of this Port; and

(c) the reasons for delay in setting up of the Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Cases Pending Before Central Excise, Customs and Income-Tax Tribunals

708. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the Central Excise, Customs and Income-Tax Tribunals as on April, 1991;

(b) the number of cases pending for more than three years, Tribunal-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the delays in disposal of the cases and the steps proposed to be taken for early disposal of the pending cases?

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

(a) Cases pending before Customs, Excise & Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT) and Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) as on 1-4-91 are 39,957 and 1,98,915 respectively.

(b) Cases pending for more than three years as on 1-4-91 are as under:—

CEGAT : 16,412

ITAT : 29,943

(c) Frequent requests by parties for adjournment, complex issues which involve time consuming hearing, increased institution of cases and unfilled vacancies of Members in ITAT especially those of Accountant Members, are amongst the main reasons for delay in disposal of cases.

Amongst the steps taken for early disposal of cases are bunching of cases involving similar issues, listing of cases disposable on the basis of earlier decisions of the Tribunal and Supreme Court and creation of additional benches for CEGAT. Steps taken in respect of ITAT include selection of new Members for appointment, separation of cases which can be disposed of by benches consisting of two Judicial Members only, identification of cases covered by earlier judgements and separation of appeals involving common issues for hearing in bunches and Members undertaking tours to stations where pendency is more or regular benches are not functioning.

Default in Repayment of Loans

709. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrialists/entrepreneurs/businessmen/traders etc.