

Madurai National Highway in Kerala which is totally in a dilapidated condition; and

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Angamaly is connected to Munnar through N.H. No. 47 upto Cochin and then N.H. 49 which continues upto Madurai. These sections of National Highways are being kept in trafficworthy condition against the available maintenance and repair grant. Further improvements on N.H. 49 will be taken up in a phased manner subject to the completion of surveys and investigations by the State PWD.

Construction of New National Highway from Angamaly to Madurai

721. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a new National Highway from Angamaly to Madurai via Thekkady through the middle of the backward Idukki District in Kerala;

(b) if so, the time by which the National Highway is likely to be constructed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There has been neither a request from the Kerala Government for inclusion of this road in the National Highway grid during the 8th Five Year Plan nor has the N.T.P.C. (National Transport Policy Committee) recommended its inclusion in the National Highway network.

Writing-off Agricultural Debts

722. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW:

SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding writing off of agricultural debts upto Rs. 10,000/-;

(b) whether there is any proposal to write off the debts of farmers in other banks also which are not within the purview of this decision;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Members are referring to the Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief Scheme (ARDR), 1990 under which debt relief to the extent of Rs. 10,000 per borrower was extended by Government to eligible borrowers including farmers, artisans and weavers in rural areas, with effect from 15th May, 1990. The amount of relief extended by public sector banks, co-operatives and Regional Rural Banks under the Scheme till 1st July, 1991 was Rs. 7434 crores covering about 297.56 lakh beneficiaries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Bonus Eligibility Ceiling

724. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the ceiling fixed for the eligibility for bonus to its employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?