

(c) the loss of revenue incurred thereby; and

(d) the measures taken to tighten the rules to check such modus operandi in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Government is aware of the news item.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Advance from Japan against Exports

749. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to acquire an advance of one billion U.S. dollars from Japan against long term exports; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Bharat Business International Ltd. (BBIL) at one stage was contemplating getting an advance from Japanese trading companies against exports to be made through them. Nothing concrete could, however, emerge on this.

Kozhikode-Palghat National Highway

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

(a) whether the preliminary work of Kozhikode-Palghat National Highway has been completed;

(b) if not, the time by which the work is likely to be completed; and

(c) the amount already spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Kozhikode-Palghat road is a State Highway and not a part of the National Highway network. As such, the State Government of Kerala are responsible for its development.

[Translation]

Construction of Bye-Pass Outside Agra City Linking National Highways

751. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road linking Delhi-Calcutta National Highway to Agra-Bombay National Highway and Agra-Jaipur National Highway to Agra city is very narrow and passes through densely populated area of Agra city thereby causing great rush of vehicular traffic and difficulties for the vehicles crossing these highways and often resulting in accidents;

(b) if so whether the Government have any scheme to construct a bye-pass outside Agra city to link the above National Highways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Bypasses are being given low priority vis-a-vis other developmental works in view of the general financial constraints.