

essential commodities that are imported, the most important ones are edible oils, pulses and kerosene. The share of imports in the domestic consumption of pulses and edible oils is small. The share of imports in the domestic consumption of kerosene is relatively high, but with effect from the evening of 24 July 1991, the domestic price of kerosene has been reduced by 10 per cent. Under the import-export policy, there are no imports of consumer goods other than life saving drugs and books.

(b) The exchange rate adjustment will stimulate exports by raising their profitability, encourage effective import substitution by making imports costlier, and stem the flight of capital from India by curbing destabilising expectations which were generated by perceptions about the exchange rate of the rupee.

Import Licensing for Capital Goods and Raw Materials

*180. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove all imports licensing for capital goods and raw materials; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Certain changes in the import policy for import of raw materials and components by units, other than SSI Units and manufacturers of life saving Medicines/equipment, have been announced recently which reduce the extent of licensing. No change has been made in the import policy for capital goods. The policy of the Government would be to progressively reduce licensing on capital goods and raw materials over a 3 to 5 year period. Detailed proposals in this regard have yet to be worked out.

Formation of Women Army Battalion

*181. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a women army battalion is proposed to be formed;

(b) if so, the proposed strength of the battalion; and

(c) the duties to be assigned to this battalion?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. While there is no move to induct women in the combat elements, the proposals of the Defence Services for the induction of women in selected branches are being processed for an early decision.

[*Translation*]

Declaration of Part of New Delhi-Bombay Road as National Highway

*182. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Delhi-Bombay road via Ajmer, Nasirabad and Indore is very important from traffic point of view;

(b) whether the headquarters of Army and CRPF, several cement factories and other industrial units are located at three places on this road viz. Nasirabad, Neemuch and Mahu;

(c) whether preliminary formalities have been completed to declare the middle part of this road from Nasirabad to Indore as National Highway; and

(d) if so, the time by which the aforesaid part of New Delhi-Bombay road is likely to be declared as National highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) New Delhi is connected to Bombay via Ajmer through existing National Highway No. 8. Similarly, existing National Highways No. 2 and 3 connect Delhi to Bombay via Indore. The route from Ajmer to Indore via Nasirabad and Neemuch, has its own importance and is part of the Road system, under the control of the respective State Governments.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
 (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Shelters at DTC Bus Stops

640. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

DR. C. SILVERA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of bus stops in the Capital and the number out of them which have overhead shelters;
- (b) whether bus shelters will be constructed at all the bus stops;
- (c) if not, the criteria followed in selecting the bus stops for construction of new bus shelters;
- (d) the details of new bus shelters constructed during 1990 and 1991 so far and also those which are proposed to be constructed during the remaining period of 1991;
- (e) whether this programme of sheltering Capital's commuters also envisages the repairs of the existing dilapidated shelters, which do not provide any relief during rains; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) DTC has approximately 5500 bus stops in the city operational area out of which 1533 are covered with Bus Queue Shelters.

(b) It is not feasible to construct shelters at all the bus stops due to paucity of space and set back constraints.

(c) Bus queue shelters are constructed keeping in view the availability of land with enough set back from the main thoroughfare.

(d) The Delhi Transport Corporation has awarded the work of construction of 320 bus queue shelters in Delhi to the CPWD in December, 1990. No construction has commenced so far. The NDMC propose to construct 10 bus queue shelters during the current financial year.

(e) Yes, Sir. Repairs to existing bus shelters are also undertaken whenever they get damaged.

(f) Does not arise in view of answer to (e) above.

Losses in NTC Due to Cancellation of on going Projects

641. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government propose to review the position with regard to expansion of different mills under the management of National Textiles Corporation Limited and its subsidiary corporations particularly these expansion projects which were stopped due to lack of funds;
- (b) whether those projects which were so abandoned are incurring huge interest loss and loss of expected production;
- (c) whether the accounts have been settled with various contractors for these cancelled contracts;