

these elections were due to be held on 22 June, 1991.

(c) The Election schedule was being constantly monitored by the Election Commission on the basis of information received from various sources including the State Government, the Central Govt., the political parties, public men and the observers appointed by the Election Commission. The decision of the Commission to postpone elections was based not on any specific information received by it at a particular point of time, but on an assessment of all relevant factors and the totality of the situation then prevalent.

(d) The estimated expenditure incurred by the State Government was approximately Rs. 3.46 crores. The figures of expenditure incurred by the persons and parties fighting for June 22, 1991 elections are not available.

Border Trade with China

658. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU VASANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to resume border trade with China; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) India and China have agreed, in principle, to resume border trade. The two sides have exchanged draft agreements in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Participation of Private sector in Transport System of Delhi

659. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage participation of the

private sector to bring about improvement in the transport system of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(d) what other steps are proposed to be taken to improve the transport system in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government welcome the active participation of the private sector to bring an improvement in the transport system of Delhi. The Government have already recommended to the Delhi Administration to introduce a scheme of special stage carriage permits at a fare structure higher than that of DTC.

(d) The Delhi Administration had engaged M/s RITES to take up a techno-economic feasibility study for the introduction of Mass Rapid Transport System for Delhi. The report was submitted to the Delhi Administration. The Government of India, in consultation with the Delhi Administration, have constituted a Steering Committee to take preparatory action.

The Delhi Administration have also been advised to grant additional stage carriage permits to private operators.

[*English*]

Corrosion of Imported Materials at Mazagaon Docks Limited

660. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Sub material rusting" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 17, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;