

[English]

15
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The name of JCI is not heard of in Orissa. It has never started its operation in Orissa. They have never gone to the field and they have never purchased a single tonne of jute from any company.

Since the position of JCI as stated by the hon. Minister is like this, I want a definite answer from the hon. Minister whether Government are going to market through JCI in the year, 1991-92 or not.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that it will go to the field and start its operation soon.

[English]

15
SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Jute industry is a well-known field and the Finance Minister is fully aware of the problem. The industry shows loss and the trade makes the profit and, therefore, the workers are continuously threatened with retrenchment while profits have gone up in the name of trade. Majority of the jute growers are small farmers. JCI should move out into the market to purchase. It is one of our demands that the wholesale trade in such sectors should be in the hands of JCI, not only in the matter of support prices. The question is : Would the JCI move out into the market with a fixed target? Would the JCI purchase at least 60 per cent or 70 per cent or 80 per cent of raw-jute that is sold in the market? If that is done, the small and marginal farmers would be saved and the profits shared by the trading sector are denied and all the profits come to the public sector despite the wishes of Shri Chidambaram.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is the same. I have already stated about it that JCI is constituted for protecting the interests of the farmers and as

regard the feelings expressed by the hon. Member, I would like to ensure that JCI will definitely protect the interests of farmers. I can't tell the figures of the moment in respect of percentage of procurement.

[English]

16
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, the fact is that the House Committee of Lok Sabha has decided to go in for purchase of jute carpets instead of this kind of carpet and the same can be done in respect of all the Government offices. (Interruptions) The entire jute products of the Jute Mills can be purchased by the JCI. Why don't the JCI go to the market now and buy the jute products? I think Manmohan Singh-ji would be happy with this proposal. Let him respond.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the suggestion given by the member is good. It will be taken into consideration.

[English]

16-18
Funds for Development of National Highways in Maharashtra

*373. **SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL** : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Development Council at their meeting held on October 11, 1990 at Delhi inter-alia discussed the modalities in regard to release of funds to States for development of National Highways from the Central Road Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of funds proposed to be released to the State of Maharashtra; and

(d) the present position regarding release of funds to the State?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the hon. Minister has stated that the National Development Council has not discussed the matter regarding release of funds to states for development of National Highways. Would the hon. Minister tell how many proposals, with regard to constructing National Highways, have been received so far from the Government of Maharashtra since 1985. My second question is that no new National Highway has been constructed in Maharashtra for the last 6-7 years. With the result great difficulties are being faced with regard to traffic management and development of the area. What is the reason for not constructing even a single national highway in Maharashtra. The third question is whether the Government have received any proposal from Maharashtra Government regarding National Highway No. 11. If so, when will you take the decision in that regard?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first thing is that the Minister of Maharashtra Government never raised this matter in the meeting of National Development Council. He has raised the other issues there.

[English]

Central assistance to the State Plan and right to work to be introduced as a fundamental right in the Constitution. Your Minister never raised the issue which you want to raise now. I would like to point out that 11 proposals for declaration as a National Highway in Maharashtra were given by the State Government. All these proposals can be considered once I know what is the budget allocation for that.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides this my second suggestion is that the National Highways and the roads which are narrow, need to be widened, e.g., National Highway No.

13 which passes through Solapur to Bijapur. It is very narrow road and the traffic on it is heavy. Generally accidents occur during rainy days. Therefore, it is needs to be widened. Has the Hon. Minister has received any proposal from the State Government in this regard?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to enlighten the hon. Member that there is no such proposal pending with us. I would request the hon. Member to ask the State Government to submit the proposal. Keeping in view of funds available with us we may consider it only after receiving the proposal from the State Government.

[English] 18

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : May I know from the hon. Minister the total contribution of Maharashtra towards the Central Road Fund during the last two years as well as the grant of funds to Maharashtra out of this Central Road Fund for the development of roads during the last two years?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I do not have the figures for the last two years. But I can tell him that the total Central Road Fund in respect of Maharashtra, right up to March, 1990 was Rs. 4416.06 lakhs, out of which for approved scheme, it was Rs. 3960.57 lakhs. I still have some balance of Rs. 455.49 lakhs which I will be using for the new scheme.

18-24
Involvement of Private Sector in Road Construction

*374. SHRI HANNAM MOLLAH+ ; PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH } : Will

the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to involve private sector in road construction;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?