

(e) Rupees one lakh has been paid to the widows of the deceased bank employee.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) Dena Bank has reported that the outsider who died in this incident had come to meet one of the employees and was not a customer of the bank.

15 *Delhi*
Ladies special Buses on D.T.C.Routes

5909. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of ladies special buses had been plying on many D.T.C.routes in Delhi for the last several years;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation has discontinued a number of routes out of them during the last one year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to restart the discontinued ladies special bus services from the Kendriya Terminal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). D.T.C. has been plying 137 ladies special trips on different routes in Delhi out of which five were discontinued due to low traffic offering during the last one year.

(e) There is no proposal at present to restart the discontinued trips because of low patronisation by the commuters and fleet constraints of DTC.

116 *Uttar Pradesh*
Expansion of U.P. Link Road (Noida Road) Into Six Lane

5910. SHRI V. SREENIVASAPRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to expand the U.P. Link Road (NOIDA Road) from four lane to six lane;

(b) if so, the detailed thereof; and

(c) the target date of completion of the work ?

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

(b) Constitutionally, this Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways only. All other roads/bridges are essentially the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories concerned. The road in questions is a State road and is to be executed by Delhi Administration. According to information received from them, it is proposed to widen the road from its Junction with National Highway 24 bypass to Chilla regulator (3.83 km) and to strengthen the existing road.

(c) Since the estimate is under consideration, it is too early to give the target date for completion of the work.

116
Smuggling Activities Near Indian Shore

5911. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned: "Contraband looted-Pak Indian Smugglers at Loggerheads" appearing in the Indian Express dated August 13, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the smuggling activities are on the increase near Indian shore over the years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the preventive steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check these smuggling activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to say whether smuggling activities near the Indian shores has increased. However, the value of contraband goods seized by the Customs authorities on the Western and Eastern coasts of the country during the last three years, are given in the table below:

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1	2
1989	404.81
1990	569.92
1991	388.77

*(upto June)
*Figure is provisional.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country especially in the vulnerable areas of the coastline has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling. The Customs officers have been equipped with vessels, vehicles, firearms, night vision binoculars etc. for combating smuggling activities more effectively. A tele-

communication network has also been provided to the field formations.

118 Appointments in Punjab National Bank on Compassionate Grounds

5912. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any family member of an employee of Punjab National Bank who dies in service is given employment in the bank on compassionate grounds;

(b) if so, the number of appointments made on compassionate grounds during 1991, so far;

(c) the rank given in such cases;

(d) whether there is any policy for giving rank to a person appointed on compassionate grounds;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any departure has been made while appointing persons on compassionate grounds during the last two years; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (g). Punjab National Bank has reported that it has formulated a scheme in terms of Government guidelines for employment of family members of its employees who die in service for appointment in the bank, on compassionate grounds. Under the scheme, the appointment is normally made only in subordinate/clerical cadres. However, in the case of exceptionally qualified dependents, the bank may consider with the prior approval of the Government their appointment in its officers' cadre. The Bank has