

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) Granite reserves in Andhra Pradesh are estimated at 3 million cu.m. (m³). The most important deposits occur in Chittoor, Hyderabad, Khamman and Warangal Districts.

(c) In order to promote export of cut and polished granite, entrepreneurs are being granted letters of permission under the 100% EDU Scheme to establish granite cutting and polishing units. Such Units are eligible for grant of Exim Scrips at 30% of the net foreign exchange earned. Exports of cut and polished granite are also eligible for Income Tax benefit under Section 80 HHC of I. Tax Act.

(d) and (e) Since the applications for financial assistance from banks/financial institutions are not required to be recommended/endorsed by the Central Government, information regarding number of units which have applied for financial assistance as 31.5.91 is not available.

Promotional Avenues of Civilian Security Officers in Defence Installations

5942. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether civilian security officers in defence installations appointed through U.P.S.C. do not have any promotional prospects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for their training as per latest security requirements for better prospects in their career?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). In 1984, the Government had declared the cadre of Civilian Security Officers as "dying out" and, consequently, no proposals for improvement of career Prospects of this cadre were taken up. However, in December, 1990, the decision declaring this cadre as "dying out" was reviewed and it has been decided to revive and restructure this cadre.

(c) Directions have been issued for providing in service training to civilian security officers in all aspects relevant to their jobs.

Maintenance of National Highway No.47 in Tamil Nadu

5943. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps taken by the union Government to maintain the Kanyakumari-Trivandrum section of National Highway No.47 particularly the portion lying in Tamil Nadu which has been severely affected by the recent monsoon rains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Kanyakumari-Trivandrum section of National Highway No. 47 in Tamil Nadu is being maintained in a traffic worthy condition. The pot-holes etc. developed during recent monsoon rains are being repaired by the Tamil Nadu Department of Highways.

Smuggling of Gold on Indo-Bangladesh Border

5944. SHRI. S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of gold has been on the increase on the Indo-Bangladesh border for the last several months;

(b) if so, the total quantity of smuggled gold seized by the authorities on the above border during the last six months; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check this smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to say whether smuggling of gold on the Indo-Bangladesh border has increased during the last several months. However, 34.037 kgs. (approximately) of contraband gold have been seized by the Customs authorities on this border during the period from January to June 1991.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country including those of the Indo-Bangladesh border has been geared up. Close coordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling. The Customs officers have been equipped with vehicles, fire-arms, night vision binoculars etc. For combating smuggling activities more effectively. A telecommunication network has also been provided to the field formations along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

Construction of National Highway to link Bidar-Gulbarga-Bangalore with National Highway Nos. 4, 9 or 13

5945. DR. B.G. JAWALI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals to construct National Highways to link Bidar-Gulbarga-Bangalore with National Highway Nos. 4, 9 or 13;

(b) if so, the stage at which the proposals are pending at present; and

(c) the reasons for delay in implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a). The State Government of Karnataka have forwarded certain proposals for declaration of new National Highways in the 8th Five Year Plan, which, *Inter-alia*, includes the road connecting Bidar to Gulbarga and Hiriyur on National Highway Nos. 4.

(b) and (c) Declaration of new National Highways in the country including those in Karnataka can be taken up for consideration only after the formulation of the 8th Five year Plan.

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Hydrographic Survey of West Coast canal of Kerala

5946. SHRIMATISUSEELAGOPALAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hydrographic Survey of Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram stretch of the West Coast Canal in Kerala was to be done during 1989-90;

(b) if so, whether the survey has been conducted;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It was carried out during 1989-90.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.