

Repairs of National Highways in Maharashtra during 1976-77

1702 SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) the National Highways in Maharashtra taken up for repairs, broadening or modernising during 1976-77,

(b) the time-limit for completing the work in each case, and

(c) amount of loan and subsidy given or proposed to be given to the State Government for the purpose for each of these Highways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH)

(a) and (b) The State of Maharashtra has nine routes as National Highways. These national highways which are existing roads are being maintained and excepting the National Highway No 1; the rest of them are being improved at an estimated cost of about Rs 47.00 crores to meet the demand of traffic of the near future. The improvement works include widening to two lane with or without strengthening and construction of new bridges at Kalwaj Kashi and Malegaon on National Highway No 3 across the river Panchganga near Kolhapur on National Highway No 4 and across the river Girna near Jalgaon on National Highway No 6. These improvement works are in various stages of progress and funds permitting of which there is shortage the improvement works are likely to be completed by the end of the Fifth Plan period.

(c) As constitutionally National Highways are a Central subject the entire expenditure involved in their development and maintenance is borne by the Central Government as a direct expenditure and as such the question of giving loan or subsidy does not arise. For development improvement and modernisation of roads in Maha-

rashtra in 1976-77 a sum of Rs. 700 lakhs has been allocated. As regards repairs a sum of Rs 78.51 lakhs has so far been allotted and further amount as found admissible in accordance with the prescribed norms shall be allotted during the remaining period of the current financial year.

Ore Handling Targets of Belekeri Port

1703 SHRI B V NAIK Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether any targets have been prescribed for ore handling by the Belekeri port on the west coast in Karnatak State during the years 1976-77 and 1977-78,

(b) whether the existing facilities at the Port are being fully utilised, and

(c) if not, whether any improvements to the port's handling facilities are contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H M TRIVEDI)

(a) to (c) Belekeri is a minor port under the control of Karnataka Govt. The State Government have reported that the existing facilities are being augmented by mechanised barge loading facilities so as to handle the exports fixed for 1976-77 and 1977-78.

Reproductive couples in the Country

1704 SHRI B V NAIK Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) the total number of reproductive couples in the country as on date as per latest available census reports,

(b) out of the above how many couples have been sterilised,

(c) the percentage of the balance number of couples programmed to be sterilised during the year 1976-77, and

(d) the year in which India will have zero population growth according to present programme?