

Year	Percentage
1988	6.58
1989	5.00
1990	4.18

(b) The functioning of Sainik Schools is reviewed regularly. Some of the important steps taken during the last four years are :—

- (i) Improvement in the terms and conditions of service of the Sainik School employees to attract better talent.
 - (ii) Special Coaching for the new entrants.
 - (iii) Implementation of the important recommendations of the Academic Study Group.
 - (iv) Provision of special coaching for the students taking the Entrance tests.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

WIDENING OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 47

1459. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) the total amount spent for the widening of the National Highway No. 47 and the progress made so far; and
- (b) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) National Highway No. 47, lying partly in Tamil Nadu and partly in Kerala, is already 2 lane in its entire length. Further, widening to four lane is proposed from Alwaye to Vytilla (16 km) and Aroor to Shertallai (21 km) in Kerala under Asian Development Bank assistance. Construction has not yet started as land is still to be acquired. It is too early to indicate time of completion of the project.

LOANS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1460. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA :
 SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to take new loans from foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the terms and conditions to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAM-ESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Negotiations with foreign countries for loans is a continuous process. The details, terms and conditions of such loans are known after the agreements are finalised.

SETTING UP OF A BENCH OF A.P. HIGH COURT AT GUNTUR

1461. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a persistent demand for setting up a bench of Andhra Pradesh High Court at Guntur;
- (b) if so, the decision taken in the matter;
- (c) the time by which this bench is likely to be set up; and
- (d) if no decision has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Representations seeking establishment of Benches of Andhra Pradesh High Court at Guntur, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam have been received.

Question**Question**

(b) to (d). No action is taken by the Central Government in the matter of establishment of Benches of High Courts till a proposal is received from the concerned State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. No proposal has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard.

VIRGINIA TOBACCO CROP PRODUCTION

1462. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated Virginia Tobacco crop production during the coming season;

(b) whether the Tobacco Board propose to permit increase in the area for tobacco crop plantation in view of enhanced export possibilities;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID) : (a) to (d). In 1990-91 production of FCV tobacco in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh was 109.46 million Kgs. This year, in view of the increase in demand, and enhanced export possibilities, the Tobacco Board to increase crop size to 165 million Kgs. has decided.

FREE PORT IN TAMIL NADU

1463. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Union Government for establishing a free port in the State along the coastal line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Government have set up an Advisory Committee to examine the desirability and feasibility

of establishing a Free Port in India. A sub-Committee thereof had preliminary discussions with the Tamil Nadu Government when some alternative sites were considered.

CASES PENDING IN SUPREME COURT AND HIGH COURTS

1464. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases both civil and criminal pending before Supreme Court and various High Courts, Court-wise; and

(b) the remedial measures taken by the Government for early disposal of cases in the interest of poor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The available information is furnished in the Statement given below; and

(b) The Judge strength is being increased from time to time. Procedural improvements and modifications to speed up disposal of cases are being made. The various courts are taking suitable steps such as rearranging the business by measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, giving priority to cases requiring quick disposal, constitution of specialised benches, increased use of modern office equipments, etc. The various recommendations contained in the Report of the Arrears Committee (Malimath Committee) which went into the problem of arrears in the High Courts, have been forwarded to all concerned such as State Governments, Central Ministries and all the High Courts for suitable follow-up action.

In the Supreme Court, the Benches are being so constituted that they function for longer periods and the work so allocated that similar matters get posted before the same Bench, thus leading to expeditious hearing of cases.