

recommended the setting up of a Standing Committee to guide and oversee the preparatory work and also to coordinate the action points with various bodies. The Standing Committee is in the process of being constituted.

[*Translation*]

#### Development of National Highways

3104. SHRI PANDURANG PUNDLIK FUNDKAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the maintenance and development of the existing National Highways during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuing activity and works are being taken up on the basis of Annual Plans/Five Year Plans subjects to *inter-se* priority of each project, traffic intensity and availability of funds from year to year. Against the project requirement of Rs. 7,830 crores for the 8th Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission has agreed to an outlay of Rs. 2,600 crores only out of which and outlay of

Rs. 2,460.00 crores is earmarked for National Highways and would be utilised mainly for the completion of on-going schemes on the existing National Highways. Thus, due to paucity of funds, the programme of developmental activity is yet to be finalised in consultation with the appraisal agencies. As regards maintenance, which is a non-Plan activity, allocations are more from year to year. For the current year 1992-93, a provision of Rs. 169.67 crores has been made for maintenance of National Highways.

[*English*]

#### Allocation of Food Vessels to Ports

3105. SHRII TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:  
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:  
SHRI AMAL DATTA:  
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the number of food handling vessels allocated to major ports and their average pre-berthing time Port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): The number of foodgrains vessels handled during July-November, 1992 and average pre-berthing detention at various major ports is as under:-

<i>Ports</i>	<i>No. of vessels</i>	<i>Average Pre-berthing detention(in days)</i>
Calcutta*	1	1.8
Haldia*	12	4.7