

concessions under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, duty free import for certain materials for the purpose of production under advance licencing system, scheme for assistance formulated by this Ministry and APEDA for export production, infrastructure development, participation in International/National Exhibition.

[*Translation*]

MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN GUJARAT

3044. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the works taken up with the help of available funds to maintain the national highways in Gujarat;

(b) the location-wise details thereof; and

(c) the works likely to be taken up during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDIGH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) Maintenance and repairs of the National Highways in the country including those in Gujarat is a continuous process. It is carried out on the entire National Highway network as and where required so as to keep it in traffic worthy condition within the funds available. During 1993-94 an allotment of Rs. 766.70 lakhs has been made for maintenance of National Highways in Gujarat.

MINING OF DIAMONDS IN M. P.

3045. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have entrusted the mining of diamonds in Madhya Pradesh to some foreign/Indian or multinational agency;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the employees working in these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

QUOTA OF IMPORTED NEWSPRINT

3046. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grant of quota of imported newsprint is based on the quantity of indigenous newsprint purchased by the printer;

(b) if so, the proportion and the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received representations to review the imported newsprint policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This is true in respect of newspapers whose annual entitlement of newsprint is more than 200 metric tonnes who are allowed to import one tonne of newsprint against purchase of two tonnes of indigenous newsprint from the scheduled mills. This proportion has been worked out on the basis of the total availability of indigenous newsprint and the quantity of newsprint required to be imported to meet the full requirement of the newspaper industry.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from the Indian Newspaper Society, Indian Newsprint Manufacturers' Association etc. While the former has been demanding rescinding the Newsprint Control Order and allowing the newspaper establishments to decide the source and quality of purchase of newsprint both indigenous and imported, the latter has been mainly demanding temporary ban on import of newsprint, removing of all controls on newsprint and levying of an import duty of 40% and deferring of further addition of new indigenous mills to the Schedule I of the Newsprint Control Order.