

No account is kept by the port of the value of the commodities handled by it.

[Translation]

Widening of National Highway Between Delhi and Chandigarh

3900. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on double laning of the National Highway between Delhi and Chandigarh; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Presumably by "double laning", the Hon'ble Member has in view four laning with divided carriageway. The work of widening of Murthal-Karnal section of the National Highway between Delhi and Chandigarh is in progress on which an expenditure of Rs. 1696 lakhs has been incurred upto June, 1993.

(b) The above widening work is targetted to be completed by December, 1995.

Bhojpuri Programmes

3901. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand to telecast/broadcast news and other programmes in Bhojpuri from Gorakhpur AIR/Doordarshan Kendra in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the standard of Bhojpuri programmes from Gorakhpur AIR/Doordarshan Kendra has declined; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) While AIR Station/Doordarshan Kendra at Gorakhpur are broadcasting/telecasting programmes in Bhojpuri, no persistent demands to broadcast/telecast news in Bhojpuri from there have been received.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Sea Fishing Vessels

3902. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing any subsidy for the acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels;

(b) if so, the number of companies along with the number of their vessels for which subsidy has been provided during each of the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for encouraging acquisition of more vessels in view of large number of vessels lying idle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) No subsidy is given for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels. However, subsidy at the rate of 33% is given to the Indian shipyards for construction of fishing trawlers for the use of Indian companies. The subsidy given for indigenous construction of fishing trawlers to Indian shipyards during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of Ship-yards	No. of Vessels	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1990-91	2	12	87.23
1991-92	3	4	20.89
1992-93	2	2	12.50

(c) Most of the existing deep sea fishing vessels are mainly meant for shrimping. The shrimp resources in the coastal regions is being exploited at optimum level at present. Therefore, in order to diversify fishing in deep seas, introduction of resource specific vessels like stern trawler, tuna long liner, squid jigger, etc. is encouraged for rational exploitation of all types of resources.

Directorate of Field Publicity

3903. SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATANAYAK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp the working of the Directorate of Field Publicity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri U.C. Agarwal, retired Secretary, Department of Personnel has been set up to study *inter alia* the working of the Directorate of Field Publicity and to suggest appropriate measures to make it more purposeful and effective. Further action will arise only after the Committee submits its report.

[Translation]

Privatisation of U.P.S.E.B.

3904. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to privatise the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board and some Indian and foreign companies have submitted their proposals in this regard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to privatise Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB). Privatisation of UPSEB or any part thereof is within the competence of Government of Uttar Pradesh. Central Government is aware of efforts being made to examine feasibility of privatisation of distribution of certain areas.

[English]

National Highway No. 8

3905. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the four laning of Vadodara-Maharashtra border section of National Highway No. 8; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Out of 277 km length of Vadodara-Maharashtra Border Section of National Highway 8, four laning of 61 km has already been completed and that for another 50 km is in various stages of progress for which a provision of Rs. 527.33 lakhs exists in Demands for Grants 1993-94. It is too early to indicate whether four laning of any of the remaining stretches will be taken up in the near future as it will depend upon overall priorities and availability of funds.

[Translation]

Letters from Members of Parliament

3906. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

SHRI RAM THAL CHOU-DHARY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received by his Ministry and other subordinate offices from the Members of Parliament during the period from July 1, 1992 to March 30, 1993;