

[English]

Roads in Assam

1575. SHRI PROBEN DEKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has submitted any proposal to the Union Government seeking special allocation for linking some of the roads with National Highways; and

(b) if so, the number of such roads in the State including the amount earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is having in mind the proposals submitted by the Government of Assam for financing certain projects linking State Roads with national Highways. The State Government has sponsored 19 road/bridge scheme of State Roads of Inter-State of Economic Importance in the 8th Plan. However, due to limited allocation of funds for Central Sector Roads Programme in the 8th Plan, it will be possible to take up only some selected projects under the afore-said programme. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate the funding position at this stage.

Coco-Nut Water

1576. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether new technology for storing and using sweet coconut water after long preservation is available in the country;

(b) whether there is any industry in India engaged in preserving and making coconut water available as a soft drink;

(c) whether such industrial products or preserved drinks are being used in other coun-

tries; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard in the food processing industry of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUNGOGOI): (a) to (d). The Regional Research Centre, Trivendrum has developed the technology for making soft from coconut water which has not yet been commercialised, though a few entrepreneurs have obtained this technology from RRL through Coconut Development Board. It is reported that a company in Philippines has developed technology for bottling soft drink, both of the carbonated and non-carbonated varieties made from coconut water.

[Translation]

Delhi-Saharanpur Road

1577. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: SHRI CHINMAYANAMD SWAMI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Delhi-Saharanpur National Highway into a double-lane road;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost involved therein; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Constitutionally, the Government of India is primarily concerned with roads declared as National Highways only. The responsibility for roads other than National Highways is essentially that of the State Governments concerned. Since the road in question is a State road, its development including widening

is the responsibility of the State Government(s) concerned.

[English]

Pak Lobby on Kashmir

1578. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Pak Lobbying for UN panel on Kashmir" appeared in the 'Times of India' dated November 16, 1993; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken and the results achieved by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Pakistan had informally circulated draft resolution against India on Kashmir issue. However, as a result of prompt and effective countermeasures taken by India, Pakistan could not muster enough support and did not table the resolution.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

1579. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI GURUDASKAMAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has applied for the membership of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC);

(b) if so, whether this application is being considered by the APEC favourably;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the tangible gains to be accrued to India by the outcome of the recent summit of APEC and likely to be accrued by its membership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c). India has indicated its interest in participating in APEC. However, APEC has decided at the Seattle meeting to concentrate at this stage on consolidation and improvement of its effectiveness. They have declared a three-year moratorium on new membership after admitting Chile in 1994. However, APEC has also set out procedures for enabling other countries of the Asia Pacific region to participate in its work programmes for promoting global and regional trade and investment.

(d) APEC membership covers countries with 60 percent of world GDP and 40% of foreign trade and includes the world's largest and most dynamic economies. With the liberalisation of India in APEC's global and regional trade and investment facilitation programmes can be expected to bring substantial benefits both to India as well to other APEC countries.

Films Screened at Udaipur Film Festival

1580. SHRI GURUDASKAMAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of Indian Films screened at the Udaipur film festival in November, 1993 were of substandard as compare to the films of other countries; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Four independent Juries for judging the films on different cinematic aspects