

[*Translation*]

Processing of Fish in Bihar

6733. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the quantum of processed fish produced in Bihar during the financial year 1992-93 and its rupee value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): Fish production in Bihar in 1992-93 was 164070 MTs. Being an inland State, about 97% of the fish catch is marketed in fresh/iced condition. The remaining 3% of the catch is disposed of for miscellaneous purposes. There is no significant processing of fish in Bihar by canning, freezing, curing and reduction to fish meal etc.

[*English*]

National Highways

6734. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken for the development and maintenance of National Highways passing through Kerala during the last three years; and

(b) the details of steps taken to check accidents on National Highways in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The development and maintenance of National Highways in the

country including the State of Kerala is a continuous process and National Highways are kept in traffic worthy condition within the available funds. During the last three years (1991-92 to 1993-94) a total allocation of Rs. 75.09 crore has been made for development and maintenance of National Highways. The improvements on National Highways help in reducing accidents.

[*Translation*]

Cost of Gold Extraction

6735. SHRI HARCHAND SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gold mines where gold extraction is not cost-effective; and

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The only public sector undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines, which is engaged in gold mining operations is Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGML). The gold mines operated by B.G.M.L. viz Mysore-Champion Amalgamated Mine and Nundydroog mine located in Kolar District, Kamataka; Yeppamana Mine located in Anantpur District, Andhra Pradesh and Chigargunta and Old Bisanatham Mines located in Chitoor District, Andhra Pradesh are resulting in losses.

(b) B.G.M.L. has now confined its mining operations at Kolar Gold Fields to shallow levels to cut down the costs. In addition, the Company has taken

measures to reduce the cost of production by cutting other expenditure.

[English]

National Highways in Karnataka

6736. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether estimate for the four laning of National Highways has been submitted by the Karnataka Government;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) when the estimate was sanctioned and the total cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Passenger and Goods Transport between Paradip and Haldia

6737. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to introduce passenger and goods transport in the waterways between Paradip and Haldia has been pending with the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to implement the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The stretch between Paradip and Haldia forms part of the country's coastal waters. Cargo ships are already operating between Paradip and Haldia. The Ministry has not received any proposal for the

operation of passenger ships on this stretch.

(b) Does not arise.

Maritime boundaries with Pakistan and Bangladesh

6738. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 257 on December 20, 1993 and state:

(a) the progress made in the demarcation of maritime boundaries with Pakistan in the Arabian Sea and Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal;

(b) the exact status of negotiations; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in the conclusion of an agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Bangladesh

(a) Eight rounds of talks have been held between the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh on demarcation of maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal from November, 1974 to January, 1982. Despite these talks, no substantial progress has been achieved so far.

(b) The issue is being pursued through diplomatic and other channels in order to seek resumption of the above-mentioned talks.

(c) No Agreement has been concluded because of differences of approaches and viewpoints of the two sides on substantive issues.