

Purchase of Dumper by NMDC

6829. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited is procuring 50 tonnes capacity BEML Dumpers at exhorbitant rates; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has reported that it finalises purchase orders for dumpers after obtaining offers from the existing manufacturers of dumpers in the country and after detailed consideration of the techno-commercial aspects of the equipment.

National Highway Authority

6830. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to form a full-fledged National Highway Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It is too early to indicate the details and time by which the Authority is likely to be activated.

Mineral Exploration

6831. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given high priority to the search and evaluation of both high value and other non-ferrous minerals in the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government has accorded high priority for exploration of selected mineral commodities during Eighth Plan period. Geological Survey of India has planned to carry out 146 new investigations/re-oriented programmes for exploration of Basemetals (46 investigations), Gold (40 investigations), Tin-Tungsten (15 investigations), Platinum Group of Metals (PGM) (9 investigations), Molybdenum (3 investigations), Multimetals (13 investigations), Diamond (8 investigations) and General Metallogenic studies (12 projects).

In addition, 21 investigations for Coal and Lignite are also planned.

Quarters for P&T employees in Guwahati

6832. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate number of quarters have been constructed for the

employees of Post and Telegraph and Telecommunications in Guwahati;

(b) if not, the extent to which the existing number of staff quarters are short of the requirement; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to construct adequate number of staff quarters for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) *Department of Posts*

As per the demand, the shortfall in the number of staff quarters is 110. (One hundred and ten).

Department of Telecommunications

There is a shortfall of 102 (One hundred and two) staff quarters to achieve 14% satisfaction ratio (targetted).

(c) *Department of Posts*

Construction of 36 (thirty six) staff quarters has already been approved. More quarters will be constructed as per the availability of resources.

Department of Telecommunications

Shortfall is planned to be made up by the end of 8th Five Year Plan, i.e., by March '97.

Rural Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

6833. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Post Offices in various villages of Andhra Pradesh are functioning in small houses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct buildings for these post offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). The accommodation for Extra Departmental Post Offices in rural areas are provided by the Extra Departmental Postmasters in their premises and not by the Department. Out of 1335 departmental Post offices as on 31.12.93 in rural Andhra Pradesh, about 20% of them are functioning in small houses for want of suitable buildings.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to construct building for these post offices subject to availability of suitable sites and funds. During the current financial year departmental buildings for 5 such post offices are under construction.

Policy on Film Censorship

6834. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a clear policy on Film Censorship after considering the recommendations of the National Film Policy Group;