

- (iv) MOS(C) has taken a meeting with the representatives of the service unions concerned on 18-4-94. While assuring them that their demands would receive attention, he appealed to them to call off the proposed strike.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Media

4566. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (FEROZPUR): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign media is ignoring the Indian laws regulating the telecast of films/serials and news etc.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The contents of the programmes of foreign television network, transmitted through satellite, do not come within the ambit of regulations of Govt. of India.

(b) A number of changes in the programme on Doordarshan's Satellite Channels have been carried out to provide wholesome fare of predominantly Indian programming so as to sustain the interest of its viewers.

Damage to National Highways in Maharashtra

4567. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the sections of the national highways in Maharashtra which

are prone to damage on account of natural calamities; and

(b) the steps taken to protect them from the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). There is no specific section of National Highway in Maharashtra which is prone to damage on account of natural calamities. However, stretches that get damaged due to floods etc. are restored within the available funds for maintenance.

Mining of Dereserved Minerals by Foreign Firms

4568. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of policy changes in the National Mineral Policy (1993-94) and the amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, on the mining operations in India; and

(b) the main objectives behind the relaxation on foreigners holding equity in mining companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) As a result of these changes all non atomic and non fuel minerals can now be exploited by the private sector and exclusive reservation for exploitation by the public sector of some of these minerals has been done

away with. Similarly in case of joint sector companies earlier restrictions on equity participation by foreign partners have been relaxed. Further, mining rights can now be given to any company as defined in Sub Section I of the Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(b) The above changes have been made to attract investment and up-to-date technology in the mineral sector so as to speed up the pace of mineral development in the country.

[English]

Collection of Road Tax in Gujarat

4569. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue collected by way of Road Tax from the transport system on National Highways in Gujarat during the last five years; and

(b) the amount spent on the development and maintenance of National Highway No. 8 in Gujarat out of their revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Road Tax is collected for a particular period for plying a vehicle in a State or in the entire territory of the country. It is not collected on National-Highways basis.

[Translation]

Monographs of National Leaders

4570. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the national leaders the monographs of whom have

been published by the publications department;

(b) the names of various leaders of Bihar the monographs of whom have been published;

(c) whether any partiality has been shown in regard to publication of the monographs of leaders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P SINGH DEO): (a) To date, Publications Division has published '85' biographies on great Indian personalities as per the *Statement* enclosed.

- (b) (i) Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
(ii) Shri Sachchidananda Sinha
(iii) Shri Krishna Singh
(iv) Shri Mazharul Haque.

The publishing of the biographies of Lok Nayak Jayprakash Narayan and Babu Jagjivan Ram is under process.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

List showing the names of Great Indian Personalities whose biographies have been published by publications division of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

1. Abul Kalam Azad
2. Annie Besant
3. Asutosh Mookerjee
4. Ananda K. Coomaraswamy