

**Development of National Highway 49**

2060. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far with regard to the construction works being undertaken on National Highway 49;

(b) the time by which these works are likely to be completed; and

(c) the funds earmarked during 1994-95 for development of National Highway 49 from Cochin to Muvattupuzha, Muvattupuzha to Neriya Mangalam, Neriya Mangalam to Munnar and from Munnar to Madurai respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Out of 23 works at various stages of progress on NH 49, eleven works are likely to be completed during 1994-95 and the remaining 12 works during 1995-96 subject to availability of funds.

(c) Funds are allocated to the State for the National Highways as a whole and not work-wise. During 1994-95, a sum of Rs. 48 crore has been allocated for development of National Highways passing through Kerala and Tamil Nadu including National Highway No. 49.

**Postal Advisory Committee in Maharashtra**

2061. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Postal Advisory Committee has been set up in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details of its composition and terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**STD/ISD PCOs In Delhi**

2062. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in Delhi for allotment of PCOs with I.S.D and S.T.D. facilities during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the number of persons out of them provided with this facility, the number of applications rejected and pending and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the remaining applications are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 961 and 700 applications were received by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited for allotment of PCOs with ISD facilities during 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively.

(b) Out of the total 1661 applicants, 393 applicants have been provided with STD/ISD PCOs. 474 applications have been rejected and 794 applications are pending.

Most of the above pending cases are held up due to completion of documents by

the applicants and also due to technical reasons viz. exchange capacity constraints and technical feasibility etc.

(c) The remaining applications are likely to be cleared by 31st March, 1995 subject to technical feasibility and completion of departmental formalities by the applicants.

[English]

### Dhansiri Valley Project

2063. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a well named BRDD of Borholla in Borholla Changdang oil field in Assam was exploded in March, 1994;

(b) if so, the losses suffered due to explosion in the said well;

(c) whether the Government have ordered investigation into the cause of such explosion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) There was a blow out at well BRDD in Borholla Changdang oil field.

(b) : There was no loss of life.

(c) : No, Sir.

(d) : Does not arise.

### Varapuzha Bridge

2064. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bridge on National Highways given to private firms for construction and toll collection;

(b) whether Varapuzha bridges in Cochin is likely to come under this category;

(c) the progress made so far with regard to the construction of the bridge; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). The Government has been contemplating to involve the Private Sector participation on fee-based facilities on Highway Sector on Build, Operate and Transfer (EOT) basis, and certain projects *inter-alia* including the Varapuzha bridge in Kerala have been identified for the purpose. Construction of Varapuzha bridge has been sanctioned. However, the broad modalities of the proposal for private sector are yet to be given final shape by the Government. It is, therefore, too early to indicate the likely time by which the work will be completed.

[Translation]

### Accident claims paid by D.T.C.

2065. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount paid by D.T.C. as accident claims during 1993-94 and 1994-95