

*[English]***Foreign guarantee policy for Private Power Projects**

207. PROF. UMMAREDDY
VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN
SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI LALIT ORAON:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to provide guarantee for loans to be taken by the Private Power Projects from the multi-national agencies that required such a guarantee under its statutes;

(b) if so, the details of the policy adopted in this regard;

(c) whether this guarantee has helped in persuading the foreign countries to invest in India; and

(d) how many countries have now agreed to invest in power projects in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No Sir.

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

(d) As on date proposals have been received for setting up of 35 power projects from foreign based private companies belonging to USA, UK, Germany, Australia, Japan, Malta and Israel.

Auto Rickshaw Fares

208. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the recent hike in auto fares, the metres have been corrected to reflect the revised rates;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any check has been done to detect defective metres;

(d) if so, the number of auto drivers found defaulting; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):

(a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Jyoti Basu Committee Report**

209. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jyoti Basu Committee constituted to look into the nation-wise strike by truckers in July, 1993 has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings and the recommendations of the report;

(c) whether the Government have considered this report;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard and;

(e) the income earned by the States through toll tax at present?

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

(b) to (d). The Committee observed that the Octroi is protected by Entry-52 of the State List in the Constitution and there was no question of its abolition. However, there were delays at check-posts, which were often related to a possible complicity between a section of truck operators and a section of employees, resulting in tax evasion. Therefore, the Committee recommended that the States may within their own Constitutional rights and specific characteristics, choose to stream-line the system of levy, assessment and collection of octroi and entry tax with a view to reducing the delay and tax evasion. However, no action lies on the part of the Central Government on the recommendations of the Committee, since this is a State subject.

(e) This toll (octroi) is not levied by all States. As per information furnished to the Committee, the total earnings of some of the States are as follows:—

Haryana	Rs. 42 crores (approx)
Rajasthan	Rs. 129 crores (for the year 1992-93)
Orissa	Rs. 32.95 crores (for the year 1992-93)
Maharashtra	Rs. 1090 crores (for the year 1992-93)
Gujarat	Rs. 340 crores

Road links to Tribal Areas in Madhya Pradesh

210. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for connecting the densely populated tribal areas to the main roads; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Ministry of Surface Transport is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways and all other roads including tribal roads are mainly the responsibility of concerned State Government and funds for the same are provided in State plan/Budget under Minimum Needs Programme.

[English]

Quality of Lubricants

211. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the lubricants available in the capital are of spurious one;

(b) if so, the number of samples of lubricants lifted from the petrol pumps in Delhi in the last one year;