

National Highways

6668. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure followed in approving and sanctioning the length of the National Highways;

(b) whether the expenditure is borne by the concerned States also; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Proposals received from various State Governments are examined in the light of availability of resources, criteria laid down for declaring new National Highways, recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee, inter-se priority of a road on an all-India basis including proximity of other National Highways in the area etc. These are appraised by Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, etc., and finally approved.

(b) and (c). No expenditure is incurred by the State Government after a road is declared as a National Highway.

Strengthening of National Highways

6669. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared any project during March, 1995 for strengthening some selected sections of National Highways:

(b) if so, whether any sections of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh have been selected for that purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). Four strengthening works on NH 5 and NH 7 costing Rs. 12.06 crores have been sanctioned during March 1995 in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Antarctica Expeditions

6670. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Geological Survey of India (GSI) teams that have participated in the various Antarctica expeditions, during the last three years;

(b) the details of survey and experiments conducted by them in Antarctica;

(c) the results thereof and the benefits that would accrue to the country from these surveys; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on sending these teams for the expedition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) The details of Geological Survey of India (GSI) Scientists Team participated in Antarctica Expeditions are given below:

Year	Expedition	No. of GSI Scientists
1992-93	XII	3
1993-94	XIII	2
1994-95	XIV	3

(b) The details of survey and experiments conducted in Antarctica are as under :

Geology	Glaciology
(i) Geological Mapping	(i) Continental-ice balance
(ii) Geological Evolution	(ii) Glacier dynamics
(iii) Rectonics	(iii) Snow-ice Stratigraphy
(iv) Magmatism	(iv) Palaeoclimate
(v) Inter-continental correlation	(v) Global change
(vi) Geomorphological studies	
(vii) Geochronology	
(viii) Palaeomagnetism	

(c) A total area of 9000 sq. km. have been mapped and 2000 rock samples collected are highly valued for their remoteness.

The geological studies viz. mapping, sampling and laboratory inputs are expected to lead to better understanding of the geology of India in regard to crustal evolution, terrain development and evolution of life about 200 million years before.

The Antarctica ice contains a record of global climatic change of past in its ice layers. Studies throw light on global weather regime and offer input to the environmental change.

Changes in the fluctuations of the mass balance of Antarctica ice offers vital parameters for predicting the future global change on the entire earth system.

(d) The Department of Ocean Development sends the teams to Antarctica and bears all the expenses. There is no separate allocation for sending GSI team to