

(d) Being a regional organisation, SAARC functions on the basis of consensus and collective efforts by all Member States. India attaches high importance to SAARC and has played an active and constructive role in it. As the current Chairman, it would continue to do so in mutual consultation and cooperation with other Member States.

[Translation]

LINKING OF PATNA TO NATIONAL HIGHWAY

1861. Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary : Will the Minister of Surface Transport be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the National Highways passing through Bihar during the current year;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to connect Patna with National Highway passing through Mujaffarnagar to Nepal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Shri Jagdish Tytler) : (a) Yes, Sir, There is provision for Rs. 161 crores in Annual Plan 1995-96 for improvement of National Highways in Bihar.

(b) and (c) Presumably, Hon'ble Member of Parliament is referring to a proposal to have Patna-Muzaffarpur link to be declared as National Highway, Muzaffarpur to Nepal border already being connected through National Highways. On account of severe constraint of resources, there is no proposal to declare this link as National Highway, though the State Government of Bihar had made a request to this effect.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

1862. Shri Vilasrao Nagnathrao Gundewar :
Shri Sureshanand Swami :

Will the Minister of Surface Transport be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise details of the projects pertaining to transport infrastructure lying pending with the Union Government,

(b) the time since when these are lying pending; and

(c) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded to ?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Shri Jagdish Tytler) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

BYPASS IN INDORE

1863. Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan : Will the Minister of Surface Transport be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started review of Bypass under construction in Indore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present position of the above construction work ?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Shri Jagdish Tytler) : (a) to (c) Bypass around Indore has been sanctioned but the construction has not yet started because the design of the bypass is under review and requires the concurrence of the World Bank.

[English]

TRANSPORTATION OF FERTILIZERS

1864. Shri Sarat Pattanayak :

Shri Ram Naik :

Will the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the fertilizer industry is presently suffering from shortage of wagons for transportation;

(b) whether Government are also aware that due to this shortage the inventory with the industry has increased two and half times the normal level; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to ensure that sufficient number of wagons is made available to the industry ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Department of Electronics and Department of Ocean Development (Shri Eduardo Faleiro) : (a) and (b) During the current Kharif season till the end of July, the loading of fertilizers by rail has been 6.99 million tonnes, as compared to 6.39 million tonnes in the corresponding period of last year, reflecting an increase of 9.4%. There have, however, been constraints in speedy evacuation of material from some plants/ports due to inadequate availability of wagons. Through effective inter-ministerial coordination and appropriate adjustments in the movement plans dictated by the pattern of traffic flows, the loading of fertilizers by rail has been augmented.

The availability of fertilizers in the country is, by and large, comfortable with reference to the current demand.

(c) The plan of wagon procurement for 1995-96 has been increased from 12,000 wagons to 19,000 wagons.

MYSORE CITY WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

1865. Shrimati Chandra Prabha Urs : Will the Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal for Central assistance to take up Mysore city water supply scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment (Shri P.K. Thungon) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

TRANSIT FACILITIES THROUGH BANGLADESH

1866. Shri Chitta Basu :
Dr. Sudhir Ray :
Shrimati Bibhu Kumari Devi :
Shri Bir Singh Mahato :

Will the **Minister of External Affairs** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any request to Bangladesh for providing transit facilities to the land-locked N-E States from West Bengal through Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the response of Bangladesh thereto;

(c) whether any proposal for establishing rail link between the two countries is under consideration; and

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Pranab Mukherjee) : (a) to (d) The Government of India has raised the issue with the Government of Bangladesh, of various modes of transit arrangements such as road, railways, and using Chittagong harbour as a part of multi-modal transit facilities to the land-locked north eastern States from West Bengal through Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh, so far, has not reacted positively to our proposals.

[Translation]

PATENT ACT

1867. Shri Manjay Lal : Will the **Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Dava Udyog Ko Jabardast Jhatka Lagne Ka Andesha" in the Hindi Daily 'Jansatta', dated May 12, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a provision under Patents Act for providing prerogative to the Multinational Companies for marketing of medicines for five years by abolishing the facility available to the Indian drug Companies under 1970 Patent Act; and

(d) the way in which the Government propose to tackle this situation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Department of Electronics and Department of Ocean Development (Shri Eduardo Faleiro) : (a) The news item has been persued.

(b) to (d) Being a signatory to the TRIPs Agreement, the Government is to give effect to its provisions which inter-alia provides that pending grant of Product Patent, exclusive marketing rights would be granted for a period of five years or until the patent is granted or rejected, whichever is earlier, for drugs patented after 1-1-1995, subject to the condition stipulated in the Agreement. The above provisions would apply after the Patent Act, 1970 is amended to this effect.

[English]

INA PERSONNEL IN MYANMAR

1868. Shri Ram Prasad Singh : Will the **Minister of External Affairs** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item captioned "150 INA personnel surviving in Burma are facing miserable plight in old age", that appeared in the 'Organiser' that July 22, 1990;

(b) whether the Government have taken/propose to take any steps to provide any relief/pension to them under special circumstances;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Pranab Mukherjee) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has seen the news report that appeared in the 'Organiser' dated July 22, 1990. The facts in this matter are being ascertained through out Embassy in Myanmar. When the information is available it will be laid on the table of the house.

LIBRARY OF INDIAN COUNCIL FOR WORLD AFFAIRS

1869. Shri Anna Joshi : Will the **Minister of External Affairs** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of World re-knowned library of Indian Council for World Affairs is deteriorating day-by-day;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any remedial steps to save the library; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri R.L. Bhatia) : (a) to (c) For quite some time, complaints have been received from Members of Parliament regarding deterioration in the condition of the library of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), loss of precious books from the library, etc. The ICWA is an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act and as such the Ministry of External Affairs has no control over its functioning. However, with a view to improving the all round functioning of the ICWA, the Ministry has been proposing to the President of the ICWA to request the governing body of the Council to pass a resolution for the constitution of a high-powered committee.