

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government of India is extending necessary assistance for the Power Purchase Agreement to be finalised by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and the company.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY - 49

1992. Shri P. C. Thomas : Will the Minister of Surface Transport be pleased to state :

(a) the details of works proposed to be carried out on National highway - 49 during 1995-96 alongwith the cost of each such work;

(b) the details of works carried out on National Highway-49 during the last three years; and

(c) the details and progress of ongoing works on National Highway-49 alongwith the expenditure involved therein?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Shri Jagdish Tytler) : (a) On NH 49, 2 Road works costing Rs. 400 lakhs in Kerala and one road work and 4 bridge works costing Rs. 300 lakhs and Rs. 80 lakhs respectively in Tamil Nadu are proposed to be sanctioned during 1995-96.

(b) There are 10 Road works costing Rs. 251.56 lakhs in Kerala and 2 Road works and 6 Bridge works costing Rs. 181.35 lakhs and Rs. 315.23 lakhs respectively in Tamil Nadu in progress during the last 3 years on NH-49.

(c) In Kerala on NH-49, there are 13 Road works in various stages of progress and expenditure thereon upto March '95 is Rs. 83.54 lakhs. In Tamil Nadu, there are 4 Road works and 6 Bridge works in various stages of progress on NH-49, and the expenditure incurred thereon upto March '95 is Rs. 15.67 lakhs and Rs. 0.99 lakhs respectively.

WIDENING OF NHs IN MAHARASHTRA

1993. Shri Dharamanna Mondayya Sadul : Will the Minister of Surface Transport be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to carry out some major works like widening and expansion of National Highways in the country particularly in Maharashtra during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Shri Jagdish Tytler) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Various widening/developmental projects of National Highways costing Rs. 2192.00 crores are proposed to be taken up during 1995-96 in the country. In the case of Maharashtra, there is a provision for widening to four lanes, widening/reconstruction of C.D. works, strengthening two lane pavement costing Rs.18.50 crores. Apart from it, seven major/minor bridges at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.40 crores including certain other miscellaneous works totalling to Rs. 7.00 crores are also proposed to be undertaken

during the aforesaid period.

HBA FACILITY TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

1994. Dr. P. Vallal Peruman : Will the Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for allowing Housing building Advance to Government employees;

(b) whether the Union Government have changed the criteria for granting house building advance to Central Government employees recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment (Shri P. K. Thungon) : (a) The amount of House Building Advance admissible at present is 50 months Basic pay of the Government servant or actual cost of construction/acquisition or repaying capacity or Rs. 2.5 lakhs whichever is the least. House Building Advance is admissible to all permanent Central Government employees as well as to temporary government servants who have rendered at least 10 years continuous service.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN OCEAN RIM COUNTRIES

1995. Shri Hari Kishore Singh : Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) whether the idea of an Association of Indian Ocean Rim States has been advanced by South Africa and Australia; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Pranab Mukherjee) : (a) and (b) Proposals for cooperation among Indian Ocean Rim Countries have been advanced by several countries, including South Africa and Australia. Government is positively inclined to consider such suggestions and it has initiated exploratory contacts with the interested countries to determine the possibility and scope of such cooperation.

Indian participated in the first International Meeting of Experts from seven Indian Ocean Rim Countries (viz. Australia, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, Singapore and South Africa) convened by Mauritius at Port Louis from March 29-31, 1995. The meeting agreed on the principles, objectives and direction of the future action programme of an Indian Ocean Rim Initiative beginning with these seven countries to promote cooperation in trade, investment, science and technology, tourism and human resource development.

[Translation]

OUT OF TURN ALLOTMENTS BY DDA

1996. Shri Khelan Ram Jangde : Will the Minister of