

(b) DTC has been incurring heavy losses for the last so many years. DTC's internal resources are not sufficient to liquidate its committed liabilities in time. As a result, there has been some delay in disbursing the salaries to the employees. The salaries for the months of August and September, 1995 were paid to the employees of DTC in October, 1995.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has taken various measures to provide funds for payment of salaries to DTC employees and DTC is making all out efforts to generate more funds to enable them to liquidate its committed liabilities.

OIC Pressure on Kashmir

1127. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the deliberations of the Ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Countries, held in New York recently (Oct., 1995);

(b) if so, whether Pakistan and rebel Kashmiri militant leaders requested OIC to put pressure on India in regard to Kashmir issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to reports, Pakistani spokesmen and militants from Kashmir addressed the meeting and made anti-Indian statements.

Government are committed to the normalization of the situation in the Jammu & Kashmir and to the resumption of normal political processes through elections. Government have, time and again, reiterated their willingness to hold talks with Pakistan without any preconditions on all aspects of Indo-Pakistan bilateral relations. Pakistan has, as yet, not responded positively to this offer.

Steamer Services Through Bangladesh

1128. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are in touch with Bangladesh for launching steamer services from Silchar to Calcutta through Bangladesh;

(b) whether the Government have received any positive response from Bangladesh in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures to be taken to enter into an agreement with that country for steamer services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). There was no proposal to include the steamer route between Silchar and Calcutta through Bangladesh in the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh. Therefore, the present Protocol also does not cover any steamer route between Silchar and Calcutta.

[Translation]

Widening and Repair of National Highways

1129. SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the National Highway No. 33 and National Highway No. 6 are in a bad shape for quite some time resulting in frequent accidents;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken or propose to take any action for repair, maintenance and broadening of these dilapidated National Highway on priority basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds sanctioned for the purpose and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous activity. National Highway No. 33 and No. 6 are being maintained in traffic-worthy condition within available funds.

(d) Allocations of funds to States are made by the Ministry as a whole and not National Highways-wise. The National Highway No. 6 and 33 pass through the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and West Bengal, for which the allotment and expenditure during the last three years are as under:

States	Allotment		Expenditure	
	Original works (Rs. in crores)	Maintenance & Repairs (Rs. in crores)	Original	M&R
Bihar	55.263	38.215	60.56	38.045
Orissa	61.54	29.41	40.035	29.411
Madhya Pradesh	59.40	42.254	66.902	54.609
Maharashtra	93.739	54.725	104.496	48.979
West Bengal	97.17	45.75	107.993	53.499