

safety of travel in buses plying in and through Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c). According to information available, a bomb exploded in a Punjab Roadways bus bound for Jammu near Village Bharoli (about 4 Kms. from Pathankot). As a result, 13 persons were killed on the spot and 36 others were injured. Three of the injured succumbed to their injuries subsequently. No arrests have been reported so far.

(d) and (e). Information in this regard is awaited from the Government of Punjab.

#### Maintenance Grant of National Highways

9169. SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise the maintenance grant of National Highways from the existing rate of Rs. 12,000/- per kilometre due to escalation in cost of construction materials etc.;

(b) whether any representations have been received from the Lorry Owners' Associations in this regard, and

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

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKISHNAN): (a) to (c). Requirements of funds for maintenance of National Highways are worked out as per norms evolved by a High Level Technical Committee. The cost per km. depends on various factors such as the cost of material and labour, width of road surface, traffic intensity, physical and climatic conditions, etc. Requirements of funds are calculated

each year at current rates and not at a constant rate of Rs. 12000/- per kilometre. In 1989-90, the requirement of ordinary repairs and periodic renewals on National Highways in plan terrain as per norms ranged from Rs. 21,860 to Rs. 42,310 per km. depending upon the various governing factors. These figures will change for 1990-91 in relation to the cost of various inputs. However, actual allocations to the various States for maintenance of National Highways are made according to resources and exact availability of the maintenance grant. A reference has been received from the Krishna District Lorry Owners' Association, Vijayawada, for enhancement of maintenance funds. However, due to budgetary constraints, it has not been possible to enhance the maintenance grant.

#### Waiting List for Telephone connections in Gujarat

9170. SHRI KASHIRAM CHHAVILDAS RANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications on waiting list for telephone connections in Gujarat as on 31 March, 1990 at District headquarters, Exchange-wise;

(b) whether Government are proposing to increase the capacity of the existing telephone exchanges in Gujarat to cope with the demand for telephone connections; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the present waiting list is likely to be exhausted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) A Statement is given below:

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The present waiting list is proposed