

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

to be cleared progressively during the first three years of 8th five year plan period (1990-95) subject to timely availability of equipment and resources. During 1990-91 it

has been planned to commission about 27000 lines at the following district head-quarters.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>District Hqr.</i>	<i>No. of lines to be Commissioned in 1990-91</i>	<i>Replacement</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1.	Ahmedabad Sabarmati	3000 Lines	1800 Lines
2.	Ahmedabad RLU	2000 Lines	
3.	Gandhinagar	6000 Lines	4000 Lines
4.	Jamnagar	1500 Lines	
5.	Himmatnagar	2500 Lines	1680 Lines
6.	Baroda Alkapuri	10000 Lines	
7.	Surat	1000 Lines	
8.	Rajkot	1000 Lines	
Total		27000 Lines	7480 Lines

#### STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>District Hq.</i>	<i>Name of Exchange</i>	<i>Waiting List</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
1.	Ahmedabad	Jamalpur (35,39)	598	
		Cantonment (6)	747	
		Central (2)	1196	
		Ellis Bridge	443	
		Naranpura I (49)	175	
		Naranpura II (47,48)	3579	

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>District Hq.</i>	<i>Name of Exchange</i>	<i>Waiting List</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3	4	5
		Navrangpura (40,46,44)	4977	
		Railwaypura Block (36,37,38,33,34,31)	5473	
		Raipur Gate (5)	146	
		Sabarmati (86)	1505	
		Vasna (41,42)	4589	
		Naroda (81)	425	
		Odhav (87)	1189	
		Vatva (830)	174	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25513</b>	<b>25513</b>
2.	Rajkot	Jubilee Park (JB Rajkot)	1162	
		Kr. Rajkot	1950	
		Bhakti Nagar	323	
		Aji	19	
		RLU Rajkot	130	
			<b>3984</b>	<b>3984</b>
3.	Baroda (Vadodara)	City X Bar	1268	
		Alkapuri	6359	
		Kothi	Nil	
		Makarpura	1800	

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>District Hq.</i>	<i>Name of Exchange</i>	<i>Waiting List</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
		Fatehganj	1147	
		Koyali	510	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>21084</b>	<b>21084</b>
4.	Surat			
		Mahidharpura (Unit I, II, III)	11959	
		Textile Market (NEC XBAR)	13607	
		Textile Market (RLU)	1677	
		Athva	1010	
		Udhna	2766	
		Randher	2786	
		Katargam	467	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>34,272</b>	<b>34,272</b>
5.	Bhavnagar			
		Bhavnagar	4374	
		Chitra	535	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4909</b>	<b>4,909</b>
6.	Amreli	Amreli	203	203
7.	Palanpur	Palanpur	889	889
8.	Bharouch	Bharouch	1755	1755
9.	Ahwa	Ahwa	Nil	Nil
10.	Gandhinagar	Gandhinagar	1051	1015

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>District Hq.</i>	<i>Name of Exchange</i>	<i>Waiting List</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3	4	5
11.	Jamnagar	Jamnagar I, II	872	872
12.	Junagadh	Junagadh	3	3
13.	Bhuj	Bhuj	1051	1051
14.	Kheda	Kheda	23	23
15.	Mehsana	Mehsana	1250	1250
16.	Godhra	Godhra	398	398
17.	Himmatnagar	Himmatnagar	558	558
18.	Surendra Nagar	Surendranagar	290	290
19.	Valsad	Valsad	1252	1252

[*Translation*]

### **Improvement in Dak Distribution System**

9171. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing system of dak distribution; and

(b) the steps being taken to speed up and improve the dak distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Dak is distributed by postman/extra departmental delivery agent and through post boxes/post bags.

(b)

(i) An important factor in the system of distribution of dak is the mail arrangement. Mail arrangement in each post office is reviewed from time to time and changes are made wherever warranted. Thereby, distribution of dak is ensured to be the best that is possible in the system.

(ii) Cancelling machine is provided in big post offices for speedy date-stamping which is an important factors within the office in issue of delivery without delay. Mostly the letters are cancelled by hand.

(iii) Renting of post boxes and post bags by those who receive large volume of mailis encouraged as a means of prompt delivery.

(iv) Occupants of multi-storeyed build-