

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested for evolving a long term surface transport policy in line with the country's economic development strategies in the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). A document titled "long term surface transport policy" has been received from ASSOCHAM through their letter dated 19th March, 1990. The document covers Railways, Road transport, Coastal shipping, inland waterways and Civil Aviation. Government are broadly in agreement with the general approach that steps should be taken for improving efficiency of the various sectors of transport and on the need for modernisation, better co-ordination among various modes of transport, encouragement of coastal shipping and inland waterways as means of transportation etc.

Revitalisation of Panchayat Institutions

1679. **DR. K. KALIMUTHU:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to bring forward a law for revitalising panchayat at institutions in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the provisions of such a legislation?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Utilisation of Amount Allotted to Kerala for National Highways

1680. **PROF. K.V. THOMAS:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire amount allotted to Kerala for development and maintenance of National Highways during the last three years had been fully utilised;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the works proposed to be undertaken on the National Highways in Kerala during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) While for development of National Highways, the State Govt. could not utilise the allocation in the last 3 years beginning from 1986-87, there has been no shortfall in expenditure on maintenance.

(b) Land acquisition and contractual problems mainly attributed to shortfall in expenditure on development works.

(c) It is too early to indicate the details of works as the 8th Plan is still to be finalised.

Authenticity of a Letter Purported to be from Fairfax Investigating Agency

1681. **SHRI JASWANT SINGH:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any letter purporting to have been written by one Gordon Mackay, claiming to be the Vice President of Fairfax Investigating Agency is on the records of his Ministry or any of its agencies or any other department of the Government of India;