

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHAN-TARAM POTDUKHE): (a) No, Sir. However the Government of Orissa have sought special financial support for the following programmes in their Eighth Plan (1992-97) and Annual Plan (1992-93) proposals:

- (i) A developmental programme for backward areas of the State, and
- (ii) Action Plan for Naxalite Prone Areas

The question of identification and development of any backward area including formulation of Plans thereof and its funding is the responsibility of the State Government as a part of State Plans. This position was explained during the Planning Commission Working Group discussions. It was also explained that no new Centrally Sponsored Scheme can be started either for development programme for backward area or for the Action Plan in Naxalite prone areas.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

[*Translation*]

Leather Quality Certificate for Exporters

4841. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have laid down a condition for leather exports to obtain a leather quality certificate from the Leather Research Institute for export of leather; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Exports of fin-

ished leather are not subject to any pre-shipment quality inspection. However, in order to prevent export of semi-finished leather (the export of which is banned) in the guise of finished leather, Government notified revised norms/guidelines vide Export Trade Control Order No. E (C) O, 88 AM (91) dated 5.8.91 to identify finished leather. Under this, exports of only suede leather (all types) and any new type of finished leather other than the types specified in the said order are subject to prior certification by the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras.

Repair of N.H. 23 between Faizabad and Basti

4842. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stretch of National Highway No. 23 from Faizabad to Basti is not in traffic worthy condition; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is proposed to be repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The stretch of National Highway from Faizabad to Basti falls on National Highway No. 28 and not on National Highway No. 23. This section is being generally kept in traffic worthy condition. However, maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and repairs are carried out from time to time, as and when required, within the constraints of the resources.

[*English*]

Direct deals with Russia

4843. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: