

area of proposed telephone exchanges at Mauda, Antara and Sandhatira, respectively.

For the remaining places the exchanges are likely to be opened by March, 1995.

#### IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS OF ROADS

2085. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Pave roads, save petrol' appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 14th September, 1992;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide cement concrete roads in place of polymer compounded bitumen to start with from Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plea made is for paving and improvement of roads. This is a continuing activity on National Highways and is undertaken depending upon the availability of resources.

(c) and (d) Widening to 4-lane in Delhi-Mathura Section of National Highway-2 includes cement concrete pavement in the new carriageway.

#### PURCHASE OF CRAWLER CRANES BY BPT

2086. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Port Trust (BPT) purchased seven Crawler Cranes of 35 ton capacity during 1983-84;

(b) the names of manufacturers and the price of each crane;

(c) the purchase for which these were purchased and whether they were used for the purpose for which these were purchased.

(d) the expected life of each crane and the number of years these were used by the Bombay Port Trust; and

(e) The dates when these were sold and at what price and the market price of such new cranes at the time of sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

#### COLLECTION OF CONSUMPTION DEPOSITS BY DESU

2087. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in the case of Ferro Alloys Co. Ltd. V/s. Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board have held the State Electricity Boards can receive advance consumption deposit without the payment of interest;

(b) whether there is any proposal to ask the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking to take consumption deposits from persons in Delhi whose electricity bill runs in thousands and lakhs to improve its financial position; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY FOR POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A system of obtaining "Security Deposit" from consumers at prescribed rates already exists in DESU. At present, there is no proposal to revise these rates. DESU is, however, reviewing the position about the applicability and implications of the Supreme Court judgement on its existing structure of Security Deposits.