

to enhance technical skills and employment potential of the Palestinians in Gaza/Jericho.

**Traffic Density on National Highways 5 and 9**

2712. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traffic density on Vijayawada-Eluru. Vijayawada-Chilakaluripeta on National Highway 5 and Vijayawada-Nauligama on National Highway 9 is very high;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to widen the present 2-lanes roads into 4-lanes roads;

(c) if so, the estimated cost of the projects; and

(d) the time by which the projects are likely to be started and the time frame fixed for their completion.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Widening to four lanes is being contemplated in the reaches Km.3.40 to Km13.00 between Vijayawada and Ejuru and Km.355.00 to Km. 434.15 between Chilakaluripeta and Vijayawada both on National Highway No.5 and Km 252.00 to Km. 265.00 between Nannigama and Vijayawada on National Highway No.9

(c) and (d). Since the projects are in preliminary stages and are yet to be sanctioned, it is too early to indicate their costs and dates for their commencement and

completion.

**National Highways in Andhra Pradesh**

2713. SHRI J.CHOKKA RAO: Will the minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the places where four-lane roads are being laid on National Highways passing through Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) the time schedule for the completion together with the amount earmarked therefor during the current year; and

(c) the total cost of construction involved in the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Four laning work is in progress on Km.358/00 to 395/875 of Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section and km. 0/00 to 2/837 of Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar section of National Highway No.5.

(b) The work is targetted to be completed by January, 1997. An allotment of Rs.12.00 crore has so far been made for externally aided National Highway Projects including this work in Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year.

(c) The Likely cost of construction is estimated to be Rs.83.333 crore.

[*Translation*]

**Melting Furnaces of BALCO**

2714. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the technology being used in