

report is a voluminous one covering 91 issues, in various transport sectors viz. Roads, Ports, Shipping, Road Transport, Railways, Civil Aviation and it has been examined in this Ministry. As a preliminary response, although the report has touched on some important issues, we have reservations about some of them. We agree that the various transport modes should develop in an intergrated manner within the minimum resource outlay to match the demand for increased transport infrastructure. We realise that lack of transport infrastructure can be a serious constraint for economic growth. With the involvement of private sector utilising private sector funds through privatisation, we expect we shall be able to meet the infrastructural requirements of the future adequately.

Prices of DMT and PTA

4800. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether import duty on Paraxylene has been reduced; and

(b) if so, the likely impact of this revision on the prices of De-methyl Tetrathelate (DMT) and Purified Terithalic Acid (PTA)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir. The import duty on paraxylene has been reduced from 30% to 10% in the Budget for the year 1995-96.

(b) The prices of DMT/PTA are not under the administered pricing control. The cost of price of a material depend on various factors of raw material prices, fuel and energy cost, cost of capital and international prices of raw materials (Paraxylene) and finished products DMT/PTA. The prices are also dependent on market forces.

[English]

Unemployment

4801. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of educated unemployed youths in urban areas is increasing in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; year-wise;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to create more employment in urban areas for future;

(d) whether in view of economic liberalization, there is a move to take up the matter with private sectors to create further employment opportunities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF THE URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). Based on the information furnished by the Ministry of Labour, relating to the number of educated (matric and above) jobseekers, on the live register of Employment Exchanges which are predominantly located in urban areas of the country, the particulars are furnished below for the period of 3 years ending 1992, upto which figures are available :

Year	No. of jobseekers (in millions)
1990	21.1
1991	22.4
1992	23.0

(c) to (e). Government's role as a direct employer has always been marginal. Through suitable policy interventions in critical areas such as monetary, fiscal, trade and industrial domains, the Government strives, to provide a conducive investment climate which attracts investment—both domestic and foreign - towards growth of economic activities, which in turn give a fillip to employment generation, including in the skilled/educated manpower category in urban areas. There has been a sizable increase in the investment in economic activities as a sequel to the economic liberalization policies ushered in by the Government during the past three years, absorbing unemployed, educated labour.

2. However, the urban poor, including the educated sections are vulnerable. To tackle urban poverty, Government have evolved policies for employment-intensive growth which create opportunities for urban poor households by increasing the demand for labour, thereby increasing employment and wage rates. As far as this Ministry is concerned, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), which is being implemented in the country since 1989-90, aims at skill-upgradation of identified beneficiaries among the urban poor through training and helping those beneficiaries in setting up their own micro enterprises, with an appropriate mix of subsidy and loan. The total Central assistance released under NRY during the past 3 years is furnished below:

Year	Total Central Assistance released (Rs. in lakhs)
1992-93	7079.75
1993-94	7477.00
1994-95	6980.00
1995-96 (allocation)	7080.00

3. Apart from the above, another major Government intervention is the Prime Minister's Integrated Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) which is to be taken up for implementation shortly in urban areas. This programme also provides for creation of self-employment opportunities for the urban poor, including the educated segment. The Central Assistance proposed under this scheme is Rs. 100 crores for the current Year.

4. As per information received from the Office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) has been launched from 2nd October, 1993 as a step to provide employment opportunities in all the State/UTs including backward States of the country. PMRY has been designed to provide employment to more than a million persons by setting up of 7 lakh micro enterprises by the educated unemployed youth.

5. As per information received from the Planning Commission, the 8th Plan is expected to generate additional employment opportunities of the order of 43 million which would benefit both educated and uneducated persons in urban and rural areas.

Regional Passport Office in Shimla

4802. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have decided to set up a regional passport office in Shimla (H.P.)
- if so, the progress made so far; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) to (c). A Passport Liaison Office is already functioning at Shimla which enables the residents of the State of Himachal Pradesh to deposit their passport applications at Shimla. Opening of new Passport Offices is based on various parameters including workload. It has not been found feasible to open a full fledged Passport Office in Shimla since the total number of applications received from the residents of the State of Himachal Pradesh during the year 1994 was only 3905.

Security Arrangements in BGML

4803. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have received reports of pilferage of gold and other materials from the Bharat Gold Mines Limited;
- if so, the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the present security arrangement in the Bharat Gold Mines Limited; and
- whether the Government propose to engage private Security Services to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To strengthen the security arrangement of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), the following steps have been taken:

- Physical search of employees working in the mines and mills has been intensified. Surprise checks are also being conducted.
- Communication and other security equipments have been strengthened.

(c) There is no proposal with the Government to engage Private Security Services for this purpose.

Road between Bombay and Baroda

4804. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to handover the work of widening of road between Bombay and Baroda to any private agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Small and Medium Towns in States

4805. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance given to States for the development of small and medium towns during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals received from different States during this period for assistance, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have received utilisation certificates from the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). Since the year 1979-80, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development