Declaration of State Highways as National Highways

510. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to take over some State Highways into the Central Sector as National Highways during the Seventh Plan period;
- (b) whether Government propose to declare Machilipatnam-Vijayawada State Highway as National Highway as requested by the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c). Owing to severe resources constraint, it is not possible at present to declare any new road as a National Highway, in any State, including Machilipatnam-Vijayawada State Highway in Andhra Pradesh.

Working of computers at New Delhi Railway Reservation office

- 511. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of instances when the computers at New Delhi Reservation office, Northern Railway, went out of order since their installation; and
- (b) the reasons for unsatisfactory working of the computers, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Since 1.1.1986, computerised reservations were affected due to system failures on nineteen occasions ranging from 30 minutes to 2 hrs. 45 minutes. On one occasion, however, the disruption of reservations, caused by a major hardware failure, lasted for 7 hrs 40 minutes. 11 of these failures were due to lack of experience of staff working on the

system, 6 due to minor hardware problems and 2 due to major hardware failures. With the additional hardware being procured for Phase II of Delhi reservations project, disruption of reservation activities due to such failures will be considerably reduced. Implementation of the second phase is expected to be completed by end March 1987.

Increase in bus fares vis-a-vis financial position of Delhi Transport Corporation

512. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the sharp increase in the bus fares of the Delhi Transport Corporation has led to any improvement in the financial position of the undertaking and the quality of service to the commuters; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b), with the recent increase in its bus fares, it is expected that its total annual working losses will be reduced to some extent.

Efforts are made on a continuing basis to improve the quality of service to the commuters. The steps taken for the purpose include intensified checking system including in-cognito checking by officers, who apart from checking the crew behaviour also look into the aspects of presentability of buses. Public address system has also been installed in certain buses to intimate stages of bus stops. For the convenience of the commuters it has been decided to allow holders of all route passes to travel in all category of DTC city route buses except Palam Coach and Tourist Special. Further, recently a transfer ticket scheme which enables the commuter to travel with two enroute changes has been introduced on an experimental basis. "Travel as you please" ticket costing Rs. 4/- is also available for all week days. All these measures have helped in providing efficient service.