

[English]

**Declaration of Srinagar-Leh Highway as National Highway**

4003. SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the economic, tourism as well as strategic importance of Srinagar-Leh Highway, Government propose to declare this road as National Highway; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Owing to certain priority considerations, it is not possible at present to declare the Srinagar-Leh Road in J & K as a National Highway.

**Mass Rapid Transport System, Madras**

4004. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) at Madras is being delayed further for five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the funds allocated for the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. It is not a fact that the MRTS project is being delayed for 5 years. The project, on the other hand, is progressing satisfactorily, commensurate with the availability of funds.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 23.75 crores so far, including Rs. 9 crores for the year 1987-88.

**Amount provided to States for Teachers Education**

4005. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) amount provided for 1987-88 for teachers education and the amount already distributed among various States and Union Territories; and

(b) the amount proposed to be given to Orissa and the amount already given and how it has been spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) An amount of Rs. 49.90 crores has been provided under the Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teacher Education for the year 1987-88. A sum of Rs. 10,88,67,000 has so far been released to States/Union Territories through NCERT during the year 1987-88.

(b) An amount of Rs. 50,64,628 has been released so far by the NCERT to the Government of Orissa, during 1987-88, for taking up Mass Orientation of School Teachers. Release of further money to the State under the Scheme would depend on receipt of project proposals from it in accordance with Guidelines.

**Pancharatan-Guwahati Railway Line**

4006. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that

a railway line from Pancharatan to Guwahati was sanctioned and initial work was started from the Guwahati side;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not taking up this work till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Construction of a new B.G. rail line from Pancharatna to Guwahati (142 km.) alongwith rail-rum-road bridge over river Brahmaputra at Jogighopa was approved in 1983-84. Its estimated cost is Rs. 232.42 crores, including Rs. 61.4 crores to be shared by Ministry of Surface Transport. Expenditure upto March 1987 is Rs. 2.43 crores and allocation for 1987-88 is Rs. 8 crores including contribution from North Eastern Council and Ministry of Surface Transport. Earthwork for the new line has been taken up in a stretch of 10 km. in Azra-Mirza section and preliminary arrangements have been made to take up construction of the rail-cum-road bridge.

#### Iron Ore Deposits

4007. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of iron ore deposits in the country, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the quantum of such reserves commercially recoverable; and

(c) how much is being mined annually at present in each of the States/Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) The total

estimated reserves of iron ore as per Inventory of Minerals prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines are as under:-

| <i>State</i>   | <i>Estimated Reserves of Iron Ore.<br/>(million tonnes)</i> |
|----------------|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 256   |
| Bihar          | 3,572   |
| Goa            | 884   |
| Karnataka      | 6,337   |
| Madhya Pradesh | 2,470   |
| Maharashtra    | 225   |
| Orissa         | 3,123   |
| Rajasthan      | 15  |
| Assam          | 49  |
| Haryana        | 8   |
| Kerala         | 88  |
| Nagaland       | 10  |
| Tamil Nadu     | 531   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>17,568</b>   |

Say 17 1/2 billion tonnes.

(b) About 85% of the estimated reserves in the country are considered to be recoverable. However, actual recovery varies from mine to mine and is dependant on the nature of the concerned deposits as well as on the method of mining.

(c) Production of iron ore in the country during 1984, 1985 and 1986 was 42.3, 44.1 and 50.6 million tonnes, respectively.