

**Highway Projects in Karnataka
with World Bank Assistance**

1276. SHRI SRIKANT DATTA NARASIMHARAJ WADIYAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some highway projects are going to be constructed in Karnataka with world Bank assistance;

(b) whether some State roads are also going to be improved with World Bank aid; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (c). For the Second package of National Highways Schemes under negotiations widening to two-lanes and strengthening km 184 to km 290 of Sholapur-Hospet Section and km 0 to 130 of Chitradurg-Hospet Section of NH No. 13 in Karnataka adding to a total length of 236 km has been projected for World Bank Loan assistance.

(b) No, Sir.

Modernisation of SAIL's Power Plants

1277. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has launched any schemes to modernise its power plants;

(b) if so, the details of the same and the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(c) when the modernisation programmes are expected to be completed and what will be the increase in steel production as a result of those programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). SAIL have conducted some preliminary

studies on the working of its existing captive power plants with a view to estimate the cost of renovation schemes for these power plants, the funds for which are expected to be made available from SAIL's internal sources.

It is not possible to precisely estimate the increase in steel production as a result of this renovation. However, there will be an increase in operational reliability of the plants.

**Increase in Prices of Commercial
Crops**

1278. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any increase in the prices of commercial crops like coconut, pepper etc., during the last three years;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in the prices of each of these crops during this period;

(c) whether the percentage of increase is comparable to the manufactured goods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The prices of some of the commercial crops have increased during the last three years. The statement given below of the All-India Monthly Index Numbers of Wholesale prices of important commercial crops (base 1970-71=100) and manufactured goods for the year 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 suggests that this rise in wholesale prices for some commercial crops has been higher (during 1986-88) than manufactured goods.