

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) to (c). The alignment of the alternate route between Khapoli (Mile 64) and Mile 68/1 near Khandala known as the lower Borghat Reach of the Bombay-Pune Section of National Highway No. 4 has been finalised and most of the land acquired. Sixth Plan allocations permitting and keeping in view the all-India picture, efforts would be made to include the work in that Plan. If included as a high priority road, endeavour would be made to approach the World Bank for (IDA) loan.

Raising of Funds through Souvenirs by Government Departments

453. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining the propriety of Government Departments raising funds through souvenirs under the guise of advertisements for souvenirs;

(b) whether Government are aware that the souvenirs are issued with official blessings and contain merely messages from the Minister concerned;

(c) whether Government also realise that this type of collection of funds is liable to lead to corruption because the officials who canvass such advertisements are prone to show favours to the firms who have obliged them; and

(d) if so, whether Government intends to put a stop to the raising of funds by such means ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting releases Government advertisements only and have recently decided not to release Government advertisements to souvenirs, so as to guard against Government patronage, if any, to such publications.

Hajira Port

454. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Gujarat in October, 1977 with a view to seeing among other things the port of Hajira in South Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have decided to set up a shipyard at the said site of Hajira soon;

(c) if so, facts thereof;

(d) whether Government also propose to set up one or more such shipyards on other coastal sites; and

(e) if so, broad details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c). It has been decided to get Detailed Project Reports prepared by foreign consultants for two sites, viz. Hazira in Gujarat and Paradip in Orissa, for setting up shipyard for construction of ships ranging between 36,000 DWT and 60,000 DWT. The Government could consider the matter and take a final decision therein only after receipt of the report.

Production in Coal India Limited

455. SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a fear that the Coal India Limited might be forced to lay off about 3 lakh employees due to strike in the Indian Explosives Ltd., Gomia;

(b) the extent to which the production of Coal India Ltd. has been affected due to this strike; and

(c) the other measures adopted by Government to procure explosive to run the coalfields ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir. The strike has since been called off from the 26th Oct., 1977.

(b) The extent of loss of production of Coal India Ltd. due to this strike has been estimated to be about 1 million tonnes.

(c) Procurement of explosives from other suppliers was stepped up to the extent possible. Apart from this a new explosives plant at Korba is likely to go into production in December, 1977. Steps have also been taken to set up additional explosives manufacturing capacity to meet the needs of the coal industry.