

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) Use of tallow in the manufacture of soap is optional and depends on the price and availability of tallow as well as of other oils. As a matter of policy Government do not permit import of tallow for use of soap manufacturers in organized sector. Limited quantities of tallow are being imported for the soap manufacturers in the small-scale sector.

(b) No representation against the use of tallow in soap has been received by the Government so far.

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

Setting up of Paper Mill based on Agricultural Waste

8222. **SHRI MOHINDER SINGH SAYIAN WALA:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab State Industries Development Corporation, with a view to use agricultural waste as the basic material has decided to set up a Paper Mill in the State with substantial financial help from Industrial Corporation; and

(b) if so, the nature of financial help to be given by I.F.C. and the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) The Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation have been granted an industrial licence for setting up a paper mill based on agricultural waste in the Hoshiarpur district (Punjab) under the name and style "Mukerian Paper Mills Ltd." The unit is proposed to have a capacity of 9000 tonnes of paper. The project is to be implemented in the joint sector with the help of the financial institutions.

(b) The Industrial Finance Corporation of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 65 lakhs to M/s. Mukerian Paper Mills and have also underwritten equity shares of the value of Rs. 20.33 lakhs offered by the company to the public for subscription.

New Strategy for Development of Roads

8223. **SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new strategy for development of roads in the country and details thereof such as outlay for 1978-79 by broad classification;

(b) what special steps are being taken to improve national high-ways;

(c) what is the total number and length of national highways at present;

(d) whether there is a proposal to increase the number and mileage of National highways; and

(e) details of specific important proposal under consideration and decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) and (b). Constitutionally, the Central Government are responsible for National Highways in states. State Governments are responsible for all roads other than National Highways in States and they have to plan, develop and maintain these roads according to their needs and availability of resources.

Concerning National Highway emphasis is to be laid on the completion of 'on-going' works, and to take up such new works as are of an urgent nature. A provision of Rs. 76 crores