

Matters involving production and prices of inputs in automotive sector have been brought to the notice of concerned agencies. Proposals relating to permits for motor vehicles involve amendments to Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. These have been included for scrutiny in the list of comprehensive amendment proposals.

A high level committee has also been constituted to examine the matter of rationalisation of Motor Vehicles Taxes. As for octroi, Government has been impressing on the States who have as yet not abolished the same to do so.

### Sethusamudram Project

3190. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sethusamudram project in Tamil Nadu is being reexamined;

(b) if so, whether any expert committee is examining the project; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) An expert Committee was set up in January 1981 to examine the economic viability of the Sethusamudram Canal Project. The Report of this Committee has since been received by Government.

(c) The Committee has observed that the economic viability of the Project is not amenable to exact quantification since certain factors, relevant to the Project's assessment, are based on a number of probabilities. The cost of the Project has been estimated at Rs. 282 crores with reference to February 1983 prices. The Committee has also found that the Project might yield a return varying from 4.72% to 11.93% under different sets of assumptions. The Committee did not find it possible to quantify the indirect economic benefits to the country and the social benefits which the Project could confer. The internal rate of return with reference to the Project's estimated cost has been considered rather

low. The Committee has recommended that the Project could be implemented in view of other considerations, and for making the Project financially and economically viable, concessions like treating the investment on the Project as a grant, etc. could be extended.

### प्रदूषित पानी के फलस्वरूप नेत्र तथा चर्म रोगों के मामले

3191. श्री तारिक अन्नवर: क्या स्वास्थ्य तथा परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या प्रदूषित पानी को पीने के कारण जनता तथा मजदूरों में नेत्र तथा चर्म रोग पाये गये हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार को इस प्रकार की जानकारी कौन-कौन से राज्यों से प्राप्त हुई है;

(ग) सरकार ने इस प्रकार की बीमारियों की रोकथाम के लिये क्या कदम उठाये हैं; और

(घ) यदि कोई कदम नहीं उठाये गये हैं तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मोहसिना किदवाई): (क) और (ख) किसी भी राज्य से दूषित पानी को पीने के कारण जनता तथा मजदूरों में नेत्र तथा चर्म रोग के किसी मामले की सूचना नहीं मिली है।

(ग) और (घ) ये प्रश्न नहीं उठते।