

Four Way N.H. between Udupi-Mangalore N.H.

4784. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that large number of accidents are taking place every day on Udupi-Mangalore National Highway;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has submitted any proposal for construction of Four Way National Highway;

(c) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to construct four way National Highway between Udupi-Mangalore National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Udupi-Mangalore section of National Highway-17 is a two lane road with good riding quality. The entire reach is built up. Accidents take place mainly due to people, crossing the road.

(b) to (d): Government of Karnataka has proposed to include the work of 4 laning of this stretch in the 9th Five Year Plan which is yet to be finalised.

[*Translation*]

Pollution in Metro Cities

4785. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have presently conducted any survey with regard to the extent of pollution in the other metro-cities of the country besides Delhi;

(b) if so, the date on which the survey was got conducted; and

(c) the details thereof and the relative position of the metro-cities of the country in the polluting cities of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b): The Central Pollution Control Board along with the State Pollution Control Boards has been regularly conducting surveys for assessing the extent of pollution in metro-cities.

(c) The levels of suspended particulate matter were mostly found to be above the prescribed ambient air quality standard while the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen were within the prescribed standards. The noise levels were generally found within the limits in

industrial areas but often exceeded the prescribed standards in certain areas of commercial, residential and silence zones.

According to the report "Global Pollution and Health" prepared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the levels of suspended particulate matter (SPM) in respect of Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay ranked 4th, 6th and 13th respectively among 54 cities of the world. With respect to sulphur dioxide, these cities ranked 27th, 18th and 37th respectively among 41 cities of the world.

[*English*]

Direct Local Call Facility

4786. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start direct local call facility between Bhivandi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (c): It has been decided to declare SDCAs (Short Distance Charging Areas) as the local area with effect from 15.8.1998. As Bhiwandi SDCA and Mumbai SDCA will form two adjacent local areas, the calls between Bhiwandi and Mumbai will be charged at 180 second plus rate. However, the calls between Bhiwandi and Navi Mumbai will be charged as before since Bhiwandi SDCA is not adjacent to the Navi Mumbai SDCA.

Policy for the Conservation of Energy

4787. RAO INDERJIT SINGH :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive policy for the conservation of Energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any monetary aid is proposed to be provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c): The formulation of comprehensive energy policy is being considered by the Planning Commission, Besides the Government is