

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

formulating a legal framework for establishing a Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), an apex level Central body, for laying down standards and norms on energy consumption for equipments and appliances compulsory energy labeling of equipments and appliances, and making energy audit mandatory for designated consumers to promote the efficient use of energy and its conservation.

Girls' Education

4788. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether societal sanctions and restrictions act as an impediment in the girls' education in rural, tribal and remote areas;

(b) if so, the recommendations made in the Programme of Action 1992 to increase enrolment of girls in secondary education;

(c) whether in pursuance of such recommendations any Boarding and Hostel facilities have been established for girl students of secondary and higher secondary schools in the country; and

(d) if so, whether any NGOs have been assigned with this task of establishing Boarding hostels and if so, the names and the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): The National Policy on Education expresses a resolve to widen access to secondary education with emphasis on enrolment of girls. The Policy also calls for a well-conceived edge in favour of women in order to neutralise the accumulated distortions of the past and also to play a positive interventionist role in the empowerment of women. The Programme of Action, 1992 also emphasises the need for some manifestation of intervention. The Programme of Action, 1992 identified certain steps to implement the postulates of National Policy on Education. One such step is a special enabling plan to ensure increase in the enrolment of girls. The Policy also stresses to encourage non-governmental and voluntary effort and provide financial assistance to them. In pursuance of the above, a Central sector Scheme for Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel Facilities for Girl Students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools is being implemented from 1993-94. The scheme provides 100% assistance for maintaining hostels exclusively for

girls studying in Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools. The Scheme does not provide any assistance for construction of Boarding Hostels.

Standard of Education in Government Schools

4789. SHRI JANG PACHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standard of education in the Government schools is not up to the mark and is witnessing a downward trend;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any study in this regard has been conducted;

(d) if so, the findings hereof; and

(e) the measures the Government propose to take to improve the standard of education in Government schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The Government does not have any comparative data or study report in this respect. However, an analysis of examination results of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) over the years shows that the pass percentage of private schools is higher than that of the Govt. schools especially in Delhi.

(b) Govt. schools cater to a very wide variety of students a majority of whom belong to socially, economically marginalised sectors and can very seldom adopt a selective or restrictive admission policy. Standard also depend on the authorities, managing and monitoring the schools.

(c) and (d): No such study has specifically been conducted.

(e) The efforts to upgrade the level of education are centered around improving the capabilities of teachers through in-service orientation and training and extending better support facilities through education technology, laboratories, libraries and special emphasis on critical areas like science, mathematics etc. Efforts are also being made to improve the contents and process of teaching learning so as to make the process of learning less stressful and more attractive.