

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Central Road Fund (CRF), which is a non-lapsing fund, is governed by the old resolution of Parliament whereby an amount of 3.5 paise per litre out of the duty of custom and excise levied on motor spirit, is set apart and the proceeds thereof applied for the purpose of road development. On the basis of present trend of consumption of petrol, and amount of Rs. 20 crore approx. per year becomes due under this fund.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Closure of Oxygen Bar

68. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Medical Organisations and Doctors are demanding the closure of recently opened Oxygen bar in the Capital;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to constitute any committee to examine the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expansion of Ship Repair Facilities at Cochin Shipyard

69. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the Central Government for adequate fund support for expansion and modernisation of Ship repair facilities in Cochin Shipyard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the State Government has also requested that the Ship repair industry be treated as

a priority sector and granted infrastructure status to enable access to low cost finance; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) had proposed a provision of Rs. 240 crores for construction of an additional Shiprepair complex in their IXth Plan proposals. Government of Kerala also supported their case for enhanced investment for augmenting shiprepair capacity of the Yard. However, keeping in view the liberalised policy of the Government and the over-all economy of the country, the request of CSL and State Government could not be acceded to. CSL were advised to explore the possibilities of getting this done on BOT/ Joint Venture basis. They were also advised to keep a provision of Rs. 5 crores for conducting feasibility study and for preparation of detailed project report for creation of additional shiprepair complex. CSL have already awarded the work of conducting the feasibility study to M/s. De Weger, Netherlands, at an estimated cost of Rs. 70 lakhs to be met from their internal resources.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Photo Identity Cards

70. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether bungs of several crores of rupees have been detected in the ambitious scheme to provide photo identity cards to the voters in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the contracts have not been awarded to the lowest bidder at many places; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its Report for the year 1997 (March) Vol. III. has made certain observations about under utilisation of funds allotted by the Central Government for implementation of the scheme of electors photo identity cards, excess/avoidable expenditure in some States due to non observance of instructions issued by the Election Commission etc.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.