

World Bank Assistance for Development of Roads

1754. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has promised to give Rs. 8000 crore as assistance for developing roads and other transport infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank had provided such assistance for this purpose earlier; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Details of loan assistance provided by World Bank for improvement of roads are given below.

S.No.	Amount US Dollar (Million)	Highways covered in the States
1	2	3
(i)	20 (Loan closed)	Sections of National Highways In the States of Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.
(ii)	306 (Under implementation)	Sections of National Highways in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal and reconstruction of six bridges on State Roads in the State of Orissa.
(iii)	213 (Loan closed)	Sections of State roads in the State of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

1	2	3
	37 (approx.) (Under implementation)	Bhagalpur Bridge in Bihar.
(iv)	51.5 (Under implementation)	Project preparation facility for State road projects in 22 States and one Union Territory.
(v)	485.5 (Under implementation)	Sections of State roads in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Opening of Long Distance and International Communication Market

1755. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications propose to open long distance and international telecommunications market for the Multilateral Trade Organisations in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the present investment policy in regard to allowing foreign equity in domestic telecommunication firms; and

(d) whether the Government propose to amend their own proposal for providing market under the policy of World Trade Organisation in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Sir, the subject of opening of national long distance and international service to competition will be reviewed in the year 1999 and 2004 respectively.

(c) The commitment made by India in World Trade Organisation is that for the basic service, there will be one operator other than DOT-MTNL in each service area. The Private Operator should be a company registered in India in which total foreign equity must not exceed 25%. However, autonomously Government is permitting foreign equity upto 49%.

(d) Sir, there is no such proposal.