

More Autonomy to Ports

1863. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed to give more autonomy to ports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-alia the purposes to be achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No specific proposal for giving more autonomy to the ports is under consideration of the Government.

OB Van for Vijayawada

1864. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no facility to cover the important events by Doordarshan in the entire coastal area of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether requests have been made for stationing an OB Van at Vijayawada so as to cover the coastal Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Presently the important functions and events in Andhra Pradesh are being covered by the Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad. A studio set up is also under implementation at Vijayawada which is likely to be completed during 1998. This centre would be provided with Electronic News Gathering (ENG) equipment for outside coverages. Though a request was received, there is not approved scheme, at present, to provide OB Van at Vijayawada.

Eighty-third Constitution Amendment Bill

1865. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the eighty-third Constitution Amendment Bill in the current Budget Session;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to any changes in the proposed Bill as recommended by the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development of the Eleventh Lok Sabha; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) The report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development relating to the Constitution (Eighty-third Amendment) Bill, 1997 is under examination. It is felt that a wider debate on the implications of the proposed legislation should be initiated.

[Translation]

Cleaning of Lakes in MP

1866. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a scheme under implementation for cleaning the lakes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time from which it is being implemented;

(c) the present position of implementation of the scheme and the manner in which it would benefit the people; and

(d) the details of lakes of Madhya Pradesh proposed to be cleaned under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) A National Lake Conservation Plan covering ten polluted urban lakes of the country has been formulated at an estimated outlay of Rs. 637 crore. However, the scheme has not been approved by Government so far.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Sagar Lake of Madhya Pradesh has been included in this scheme.