

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the details of State Government's proposed plan to decongest the saturated Mumbai Port and the Central Government's response thereto;

(e) the recommendations of the Ministry's expert Committee on infrastructural development of ports particularly relating to Maharashtra Government's proposal; and

(f) the time by which the project is likely to be given environmental clearance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A reference was made to the Ministry of Environment and Forests by M/s. Amma Lines Limited in May, 1996 and by P&O Ports in May, 1997 regarding the proposed Port at VadHAVAN in Maharashtra. However, no detailed proposal for environmental clearance as per the prescribed procedure has been submitted to the Ministry. The project proponents have been told to apply, through the State Government, to the Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority. The State Government has also been advised that no preliminary action should be taken by way of construction or otherwise at the proposed site pending detailed examination of the proposal by the Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority and the Ministry.

A number of representations have been received regarding the adverse impact of the Jetty at Dharmatar Creek on Amba Estuary also. These are being examined.

(d) No such proposal has been referred to this Ministry.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Ten Point Plan

863. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has submitted a ten point plan to the Telecom Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken by the Telecom Commission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. MTNL has been the plan titled 'Vision 2000' for modernisation of the Telecom Services in MTNL, Mumbai and Delhi.

(b) 'Vision 2000' has the following objectives.

(i) Upgradation of the external Plant.

(ii) Greater emphasis on subscriber satisfaction.

(iii) Easy availability of telephones. On demand. These steps are proposed to be achieved at a cost of Rs. 2000 crores.

(c) The document 'Vision 2000' has been approved by the Telecom Commission. MTNL has been asked to implement the plan.

Defence Expenditure

864. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to spend 5% of GDP on Defence as against 2.3% this year as expressed by GOC Western Command;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main grounds adduced by the GOC for such increase in the defence expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Defence are voted by the Parliament based on the defence allocations made by the Ministry of Finance keeping in view the requirements and security concerns projected by the Ministry of Defence, overall availability of resources and demands from other sectors of economy. It is not possible to made future projections for defence allocation as security concerns and resource position vary from time to time.

[Translation]

Road From Delhi to Badrinath Dham

865. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare the Delhi-Badrinath Dham road as National Highway and develop it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to start and the schedule of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G.VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c) The proposal is at a very preliminary stage and it is too early to give details thereof.

[English]

Decongestion of Ports

866. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: