

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Construction of National Highways and Bridges in Bihar**

687. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the National Highways and bridges in Bihar recommended by the National Traffic Development Council for inclusion in the Eighth Five Year Plan by the Union Government;

(b) the areas in which these are proposed to be constructed; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to get the construction work of these National Highways and bridges started during the first half of the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The Government is not aware of any organisation known as the "National Traffic Development Council" or the recommendations made by it. Even otherwise the 8th Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised and as such it is too early to indicate the works on various National Highways to be taken up during the 8th Plan in the country as a whole including Bihar, as well as any new National Highways to be added to the existing grid.

[English]

**SC/ST and Minority Communities Judges in Supreme Court**

688. SHRI SURESH KODIKUNNIL: Will the Minister of LAW,

JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Judges in Supreme Court at present;

(b) the number of Judges belonging to SC/ST, OBCs, minority communities and women Judges out of them;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide adequate representation to the above categories, while filling up the vacant posts; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM):

(a) to (d) Appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court are made in terms of relevant provisions of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. As on 22-7-91, against the actual strength of 25 Judges, there were 2 Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes, none belonging to Scheduled Tribe and 1 woman Judge in the Supreme Court of India. The information regarding Judges belonging to Other Backward Classes and minority communities is not available at present and will be placed on the table as soon as the same is available.

**Punctual Running of DTC Buses**

689. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any norms for punctual running of the Delhi Transport Corporation buses in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any surprise checks are made to ensure punctual running of DTC buses;

(d) if so, the details of such checks made during 1990 and 1991 (upto 30 June):

(e) if not, the reasons therefor:

(f) whether the Government propose to involve ticket-checking staff to ensure punctual running of DTC buses in Delhi; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The timings of all the DTC routes have been specified. These timings are being regulated through Time Keepers and the supervisory field staff of the DTC.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of surprise checks made to ensure punctual running of DTC buses are as under:—

<i>Number of trips checked during 1990</i>	<i>Number of trips checked from January, 1991 to June, 1991</i>
5009923	2374915

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) and (d) above.

(f) and (g) The members of the checking staff of DTC are already involved in the job of ensuring the punctual running of DTC buses in Delhi. The Time Keepers are being posted at important points/terminals who keep record of the arrival and departure of buses. Apart from ensuring punctuality of the running of buses, the checking staff also undertake the checking of ticketless travellers.

#### Price of Gold

690. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for the sudden spurt in the price of gold recently; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the price of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) The increase and subsequent fall in the price of gold is attributable to combination of factors such as, speculative nature of gold, marriage season demand and varied interpretation of recent adjustments in exchange rate.

(b) Gold is not an essential commodity and Government does not regulate its price.

[Translation]

#### Proposal to Declare Ajmer-Nawara-Chittorgarh-Indore road as National Highway

691. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent a proposal to the Union Government to declare Ajmer-Nawara-Chittorgarh-Indore road as National Highway; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A decision about the declaration of new National Highways in various States including Rajasthan would be taken after the formulation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

[English]

#### Bank Branches in Rajasthan

692. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of public sector banks in Rajasthan district-wise and bank-wise;