

SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA RAO VADDE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he had received any proposals for the construction of bridges on the river Krishna? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : He may not be having the information with him. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SOBHANADRESWARA RAO VADDE : I would like to know from the Minister whether he has any proposal for the construction of bridge on the river Krishna in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I do not have any specific answer for this specific question. I have a lot of proposals from different companies with me who would like to go into construction.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : I welcome the Government's attitude towards involving the private sector in road construction. But at the same time I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as the Government is planning to amend the National Highways Act, 1956 to involve the private sector, what are the objectives behind involving the private sector, whether it will be restricted only to profit making by the private sector or will it ensure better roads and roads in the neglected backward areas.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I think both the things will come in this.

SHRI CHANDRA JEEL YADAV : It seems that the Government is going all out for privatisation and we seem to have entered into an era of privatisation. My question firstly is whether the Government has considered the aspect that no private sector will come to construct the roads unless they have a good margin of profit. Ultimately that burden will have to be borne by the common people, by those who want to use the roads. They will impose certain kind of road toll and bridge toll and all these things. Has the Government considered the aspect as to how much burden is

going to be put on the common man? Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government is also thinking to employ certain well known agencies to run certain parts of the Government also.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I don't think I can answer this question.

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Production of Janata Cloth

*376. **SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO** : Will the Minister of **TEXTILES** be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for the production of Janata Cloth per year; and

(b) the extent to which the target has been achieved during the last three years; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) The targets fixed and the achievements made in the production of handloom janata cloth in the country during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 are as under :—

(In million square metres)

Year	Target fixed	Production achieved
1988-89	560	419.57
1989-90	600	503.80
1990-91	600	476.38

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : I would like to know whether there is any proposal to stop this scheme in the 8th Plan in a phased manner and if so, what are the reasons thereof. In the State of Andhra Pradesh this scheme has been stopped for the last one and a half years. Is the Minister aware of this stoppage of the scheme in Andhra Pradesh? If so, what are the actions the Government is going to take to implement this scheme properly?

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : Mr Speaker, Sir, at present there is neither any reason nor any proposal to stop this scheme. As far as the matter relating to Andhra Pradesh is concerned, I am not aware of it whether the scheme has been abandoned or not. However, I will look into the matter and the Hon. Member will be informed accordingly.

[English]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : For the last one and a half years we have not seen anywhere in Andhra Pradesh the distribution of this cloth whereas before that we used to see that about 30 to 40 lakh metres of cloth was distributed every year. This is the statistics we have got. Recently we have not seen anywhere in Andhra Pradesh that these cloths are distributed. A lot of fraud is taking place in procuring all these materials from the societies. Some societies are acting in such a manner that while procuring this cloth from the weaver a lot of misappropriation is taking place. Is the Government going to take any kind of action against this?

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as I understand that no fraud is taking place in the distribution of cloth for the last one and a half years as has been stated by the hon. Member. However, if some fraud is there; it would have been for the last four to five years. I will look into the matter. I would also try to ensure that there would be no incidence of fraud and distribution may be made properly. Since the distribution work is carried out by the State Government, I don't think that the fraud has been taking place for the last one and a half years. I can give you this assurance that neither any scheme has been abandoned in Andhra Pradesh nor such a thing would happen in future. If there is some fraud in distribution, it will be set right.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

[English]

Priority Sector obligations of Public Sector Banks

*366. **SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR**
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA } : Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the priority sector obligations of the public sector banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) At present there is no such proposal. However, Government has decided to appoint a high level committee to consider all relevant aspects of structure, organisation, functions and procedures of the financial system. The Committee is expected to advise the Government on appropriate measures that would be needed to enhance the viability and health of the financial sector so that it can better serve the needs of the economy without any sacrifice of the canons and principles of a sound financial system.

Declaration of Mangalore-Mysore Road as National Highway.

*368. **SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR** : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Government of Karnataka to declare the road between Mangalore and Mysore via Mercara as a National Highway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

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