

[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.