

of a navigational tug and navigational aids and instruments. Another scheme namely, recession of Jiggerkhali Flats was sanctioned in April, 1990 at an estimated cost of Rs. 43.29 crores. The scheme involves dredging of the order of about 7 million cubic metres.

(b) The Comprehensive scheme is in progress and is anticipated to be completed by June, 1992. The contract for the dredging of Jiggerkhali flat has been awarded and the work is still to be completed.

Length of National Highways

2355. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the total length of National Highways in the country as on December 31, 1990, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Length of NH in Km. (Provi- sional)
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Andhra Pradesh	2519
2	Arunachal Pradesh	330
3	Assam	2296
4	Bihar	2117
5	Chandigarh	24
6	Delhi	72
7	Goa	229
8	Gujarat	1631
9	Haryana	698
10	Himachal Pradesh	854
11	Jammu & Kashmir	648
12	Karnataka	1996
13	Kerala	940
14	Madhya Pradesh	2946
15	Maharashtra	2918
16	Manipur	431
17	Meghalaya	472
18	Mizoram	551

(1)	(2)	(3)
19	Nagaland	113
20	Orissa	1649
21	Punjab	892
22	Rajasthan	2931
23	Sikkim	62
24	Tamil Nadu	1896
25	Tripura	200
26	Uttar Pradesh	2613
27	West Bengal	1638
28	Pondicherry	23
TOTAL		33689

60 SCS/STS/OBCs
Option to SC/ST Employees in Punjab National Bank for Deletion of their Belonging to the Category

2356. SHRI ROSHAN LAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Punjab National Bank has given option to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees to get the fact of their belonging to SC/ST category deleted from their service records;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of SC/ST employees category-wise who exercised this option and their records have been amended, accordingly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) Punjab National Bank has reported that on receipt of a request from one of its employees belonging to Scheduled Caste category for deletion of his name from the Scheduled Castes, it had taken up the matter with the Government for advice. The Government, after examination of the issue, had advised the public sector banks, including Punjab National Bank, that such a request could be acceded to if the employees furnished a sworn affidavit to the effect that he is voluntarily quitting the benefits available to him as a Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidate and that he will not claim

such benefits in future also. On receipt of this advice the bank advised its Zonal/Regional Offices to allow its Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees to exercise the option after giving the affidavits. However, except the one case referred to above, no other request has been received by the bank.

61
Development of Sericulture in
Sikkim

2357. SMT. DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any facilities have been provided by the Union Government to encourage sericulture in Sikkim; and

(b) if so, since when and the details of assistance given to the State Government, till-date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CSB had established one Research Extension Centre in the State during the year 1978. This Centre is presently assisting the State Government to formulate Sericulture Development Programmes and also popularising package of practices for mulberry and technology transfer for silk worm rearing. Besides the Centre is also imparting training to farmers on various aspects of sericulture.

61
Proposal of West Bengal Government on Balance of Payment Crisis

2358. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has submitted any proposal to tide over the balance of payment crisis; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has made a careful assessment of the alternative policy approach submitted by the West Bengal Government. As a package it does not provide an effective way out of the balance of payment difficulties at the present juncture. The Non-Resident Indians would not send large amounts to India so long as our reserves remain at the low level that they are now. As regards import compression, a severe cut has been imposed, and there is no scope for further import compression without serious adverse consequences for production and employment.

The Government of India has also taken a number of measures in areas which have been referred to in the policy initiatives indicated in the alternative policy approach. Firstly, a number of steps to maintain the reserves and thus the confidence of the Non-Resident Indians have been taken. Secondly, the reforms in the areas of exchange rate, Trade and Industrial policy are also meant to add to the confidence of the Non-Resident Indians. The package of measures already taken have started showing results in terms of reversal in the trend of outflow of NRI funds. Thirdly, a scheme enabling Non-Resident Indians and their overseas corporate bodies to contribute to India Development Bonds denominated in US \$ to be issued by State Bank of India has just been announced to attract NRI funds. Fourthly, a review of policy and procedures bearing on Non-Resident Indian's investment has been proposed. Fifthly, maximum import compression is being achieved through a series of measures including those announced by Reserve Bank of India, changes in import policy and economies in canalised imports. In addition the recent exchange rate adjustment makes imports more expensive. Finally, the planned reduction in the fiscal