

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Government has accorded Go-Ahead sanction for Nation Range Project. Layout of facilities and preliminary design has been completed. A comprehensive scheme has been drawn for resettlement and rehabilitation of families likely to be affected. Work on these schemes has commenced.

(b) After acquisition of land, it will take about 7 years to make the range operational.

(c) As on date, time over-run in the project will result into upward cost revision by about 50 per cent.

Development of National Highways

2479. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the existing capacity of the National Highways;

(b) the current volume of traffic per day vis-a-vis the optimum capacity of National Highways; and

(c) the plans for development and expansion of National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The capacity of National Highways is expressed in terms of Passenger Car Units (PCUs) per day. The existing capacity of different National Highways varies according to the lane width, type of terrain, composition of traffic, etc.

(b) The volume of traffic carried by different National Highways varies from Section to Section. As per 1990 Traffic Census, the actual traffic on about 1/3 of the total length of 33,689 Kms of National Highways is more than the optimum capacity.

(c) The development of National Highways such as improvement of geometrics, widening, strengthening of pavement is a continuous process and improvement works are undertaken after being included in the Five Year Plan keeping in view the traffic

intensity, existing condition of the highway, *inter-se* priority on an All-India basis and availability of funds.

216
Construction of Bridge across Tungabhadra River near Singatalur, Karnataka

2480. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for the construction of bridge across Tungabhadra river near Singatalur in Dharward District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to sanction funds therefor as and when the augmentation of Central Road Fund takes place; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) Does not arise.

216
Directives of RBI regarding Direct Cash Dealings

2481. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has advised all banks that no direct cash dealings be involved in bank drafts for amounts over Rs. fifty thousand;

(b) if so, the number/names of those banks which have already implemented RBI's directions and which have not; and

(c) the action Reserve Bank of India proposes to take against those banks which have not followed its directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all banks that demand drafts, mail transfers, telegraphic transfers and traveller cheques for Rs. 50,000 and above

should be issued by banks only by debit to customers' account and not against cash payment. Similarly, such payments for Rs. 50,000 and above are to be made through banking channels and not in cash.

(b) and (c) RBI has informed that no case of non-implementation of the directive has been reported so far.

217 *Textile*
Increase in REP for Garment Exports

2482. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJE-SWARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the Garment Exporters Association regarding the increase in REP for garment exports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) (a) and (b) Government have received representations from sections of Garment export Trade for higher REP. Government have noted the suggestions.

217
Increase in quantity of Gold Coins and Bullion

2483. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT }
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI }
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA }

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the gold coins and bullion held by the country have increased during the years 1988-89 and 1989-90; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gold coins and bullion held by the Reserve Bank of India increased by 7.574 MT during 1989-90, while

there was no increase during 1988-89. Gold coins and bullion held in Government account increased by 4.10 MT during 1988-89 and by 1.392 MT during 1989-90. There are no estimates of the total quantity or increases thereof in the gold coins and bullion held by private parties/institutions in the country.

218 *Other Trade*
[Translation]

Opening of Zonal Office of Bank of Baroda at Bareilly

2484. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any requests to open a zonal office of the Bank of Baroda at Bareilly (U.P.); and

(b) if so, the time by which the zonal office is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) NO such request appears to have been received.

(b) Does not arise.

218
Shortage of Foreign Exchange

2485. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news items captioned "PSUs fear stoppage of foreign supplies due to forex crunch" appearing in the Indian Express of July 1, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the difficulties being faced by the public sector undertakings due to shortage of foreign exchange; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remove these difficulties?