

then takes up their case with different agencies on their behalf.

(b) The "Wind of Change" is already visible at all levels.

(c) To provide speedy action and effective coordination, District Advisory Committee headed by Collector of concerned District and consisting of other District Level Officers has been set up in each District.

A State Level Coordination Committee with Chief Minister/Minister of Industries as Chairman exists for effective coordination and speedy action.

Priority to Agriculture in Eighth Plan

1106. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has given low priority to Agriculture in the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir. Agriculture continues to be a Priority Sector in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

Roads in Delhi

1107. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the extent of road at present in Delhi is considered sufficient to meet the increasing traffic of vehicles;

(b) if not, whether the Government have considered any long term solution to this problem;

(c) whether the proposal of Mass Rapid Transit System or the Metro Railway which was first mooted as long back as 1969 is likely to be implemented on an urgent basis;

(d) if so, whether any time schedule for its completion has been laid down; and

(e) the reasons for extra-ordinary delay in the matter resulting in serious computer problems;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) In view of the increasing traffic in Delhi, there is continuing need for expansion of road capacity.

(b) Introduction of a multi-modal Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) is a long term solution to the problem.

(c) and (e). Delhi Administration had engaged M/s Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) for preparing a techno economic feasibility study for the introduction of MRTS in Delhi. The study recommended a 184.5 Km. multi-modal mass rapid transit network for Delhi consisting of underground metro, surface rail and express busway system. The project involves a very large investment of Rs. 5378 crores. It requires preparation of detailed project reports, analysis of the implication of land use, locational analysis, etc. Avenues for funding would also have to be identified before work on the project is commenced. A High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Lt. Governor of Delhi has been constituted to go into various aspects including identification of resources for the project. In view of the complexities involved, it is not possible to indicate at this stage the time schedule for completion of