

(a) whether Indian Computer is facing tough competition in export market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost export of computers to European markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons are as follows:-

(i) The high cost due to low volume production and imported inputs.

(ii) The difficulties in marketing in a field which is dominated by well-known brand names.

(iii) The rapid changes in technology which the local industry is unable to keep pace with.

(c) A number of steps have been taken by Government to boost exports of computers especially to European markets. They include visits by the industry to tap new markets in Europe, participation by trade in fairs abroad and encouragement of foreign collaboration.

#### **Development of Western Coastal Highways**

5018. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for development of western coastal highways;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to seek assistance from the Asian

Development Bank for development of these roads; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The demand for the road in question by the Maharashtra Govt. is basically for its inclusion in the National Highway network.

(c) Since the State Government of Maharashtra have not sent any proposal in this regard the Government is not contemplating at present to pose this State Road to the Asian Development Bank for funding.

#### **Catamarans for Bombay-Panaji Route**

5019. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the companies which were given permission for acquisition of high speed catamarans, for plying on the Bombay-Panaji route, have since acquired the same;

(b) if so, the time by which the catamarans are likely to start plying on the route; and

(c) if not, the further steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Government have given permission to the following three shipping companies for acquisition of catamarans for Bombay-Panaji route:-

1) M/s. Binkam Shipping Private Limited.

- 2) M/s. Satyagiri Shipping Private Limited.
- 3) M/s. Linkon Sealink Private Limited.

The validity of the sanction given to M/S. Binkam Shipping Private Limited has since expired. M/s. Satyagiri Shipping Private Limited and M/s. Linkon Sealink Private Limited have yet to complete the formalities for acquisition of the vessel.

(c) The Government grants permission for a specified period. The shipping companies therefore seek extension of time if they fail to acquire the vessel within specified period. At the time of granting extension, the progress made by the company to acquire vessels is reviewed with a view to expediting the acquisition of vessel. The Government would also consider granting permission to other shipping companies if they propose to acquire vessels for operation on this route.

#### **Curtailing of Expenditure**

5020. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether in view of resource crunch, the Government propose to stop expenditure on activities like festivals of India in foreign countries, arrangement of major sports events and international film festivals for two years;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the

Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c) It is not possible to put a complete ban on all such activities. Each case has to be considered on its merits.

#### **Curtailing of Loans and Advances at subsidised Rate of Interest**

5021. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to curtail granting of loans and advances at subsidised rates of interest to the high salaried employees in the Government and public sector units in view of economic crisis;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c). The total disbursements on account of loans to Government servants for house building/acquisition purposes and for purchase of motor conveyances (cars, motor cycles, scooters, etc.), net of recoveries, from 1990-91 onwards show the following trend:

(Rs in crores)

	1990-91	1991-92 (R.E.)	1992-93 (R.E.)
HBA	71	91	102
Purchase of motor conveyances	13	16	19