

(c) if so, the Projects under negotiations with ADB in respect of the road sector;

(d) whether in view of the latest decision, the ADB has also refused to sign the agreements in this regard; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the roads and ports projects have been affected on this count?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (e) In the Road sector only one loan amounting to US\$ 180 million for rehabilitation and upgradation of Surat-Manor section of NH-8 in the State of Gujarat is under negotiation with Asian Development Bank by National Highway Authority of India. In the Port sector two loans totalling US\$ 113 million have been signed in September, 1998 for development of ports. The loan negotiations with ADB in the Road and Port sectors have not been affected due to Japanese decision to impose sanction.

#### Indo-US Forum on S & T

1356. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Indo-US forum on Science and Technology has been set up;

(b) if so, whether the forum is proposed to be provided funds out of the residual PL-480 still lying unused;

(c) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total funds to be allotted from PL-480 for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Providing Capital Subsidy

1357. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has agreed to provide, capital subsidy to Public Sector Road Transport Undertakings to tide over the financial problems of State Road Transport Undertakings;

(b) whether the 43rd Annual Conference of Public Sector Road Transport Undertakings was held recently in New Delhi;

(c) if so, the suggestions made in the conference; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the road transport system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) The Conference was held in New Delhi on 27.3.1998.

(c) Major suggestions/observations made in the Conference are as follows :-

- (i) Upgradation of Technology and updation of bus engineering should not be delayed.
- (ii) The incidence of tax appeared to be harassing the financial health of the State Transport Undertaking (STUs).
- (iii) The provision of Capital Contribution to State Road Transport Corporations by Central Government on certain conditions of performance by State Road Transport Corporations be restored. Also, fare correction measures should be taken by respective State Governments.
- (iv) Investments in infrastructure related projects should be identified.
- (v) Education and enforcement of Road Safety should be pursued by STUs.
- (vi) Association of State Road Transport Undertakings (ASRTUs) may provide necessary support to STUs in declaring Passenger Charter.
- (vii) ASRTUS may suggest necessary and comprehensive amendments to various Acts required by STUs for their efficient functioning.

(d) Road Transport Services are owned, controlled and regulated by the concerned States/ Union Territories. Hence, all States/Union Territories are required to take appropriate steps to improve road transport system in their domain. The Ministry of Surface Transport, however, brings out a quarterly Performance Report of all Public Sector Road transport Undertakings and the findings are sent to all concerned for taking corrective measures.

#### Cases against Additional Session Judges

1358. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1573 dated August 1, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the required information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Registry of the Delhi High Court has reported that there are 9 cases pending in Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi in which Additional Sessions Judges are one of the parties. The cases are dealt with in accordance with Law. The fact that a superior Judge is a party in a case before a junior Judge does not have any relevance as decision of the case is made as per law.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Working Group to Monitor Pollution

1359. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a working group to monitor the pollution control in the country;

(b) if so, the details and composition of the said group; and

(c) the time by which the Group is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) No specific working group to monitor pollution control in the country has been formulated by the Government. However, the powers have been conferred on State Pollution Control Boards under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to execute programmes for prevention and control of pollution and monitor the effluents and emissions from various sources within their purview as per the prescribed standards.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh

1360. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has decided to set up more power projects in the State;

(b) if so, the total power likely to be generated from these projects;

(c) the names of power projects to be undertaken in Andhra Pradesh during 1998-99;

(d) whether the Chief Minister of the State has suggested aggressive reforms in the functioning of Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(e) if so, whether any concrete measures have been undertaken in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Six Thermal and three hydro projects have been cleared/sanctioned for setting up in the State of Andhra Pradesh. A total of 4825 MW (3850 MW Thermal and 975 MW Hydro) is likely to be generated from these projects after their completion.

(c) Simhadri (2x500 MW) and Kondapalli CCGT (350 MW) have been taken up for execution during 1998-99. Singur HEP, Srisailam HEP and A.P. Power House at Balimela are already under execution.

(d) to (f) The Andhra Pradesh Legislature has passed the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Reform Bill which has received Presidential assent. The Bill has become an Act. According to this Act the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board would be unbundled and its functions would be discharged by Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation and independent generating companies. Distribution is also proposed to be corporatised and privatised. Andhra Pradesh Electricity Reforms Commission is also to be set up under this Act. The State Government has initiated discussions with the World Bank for getting loan for restructuring of their power sector.

#### Investment from Private Sector and Budgetary Support

1361. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether with only 35.38 percent of the total required investment coming from the private sector and budgetary support, the Union Government are yet to figure out any concrete route to raise the rest of the resources for road sector development;

(b) whether the investment of the private sector will be able to cover only 20% of the total requirement for roads and highways; and

(c) if so, the other steps being considered by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes Sir. But the percentage quoted cannot be confirmed.