

(b) National Highway are selected on the basis of certain criteria and guidelines one of them being Roads connecting Major Ports with their hinterland in one or more States. Vadinar is not a Major Port as yet and even the limited infrastructure for the Port is yet to be developed and as such the proposed road could not be considered for inclusion as a National Highway apart from other factors.

[*Translation*]

Udaipur Bypass

*692. SHRI GULABCHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) since when the proposal for construction of a bypass on National Highway Number 8 in Udaipur, Rajasthan is under consideration of the Government and the action taken thereon so far;

(b) whether Government have given clearance for its constructions;

(c) if so, when and the amount allocated for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which construction work thereon is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) An estimate for land acquisition for Udaipur Bypass on NH 8 was received from the Rajasthan Government in October 1985. The Ministry approved the bypass alignment and the land acquisition estimate in September 1986. Land acquisition is reported to have been completed just recently.

(b) to (d). An estimate for survey, investigations and preparation of the project for Udaipur Bypass was sanctioned by the Ministry for Rs. 5.89 lakhs in December

1989. The construction of the bypass will be considered during the 8th Plan after it is finalised and survey and investigations have been completed. It is too early to indicate the construction schedule of the project.

[*English*]

Demarcation of Maritime Boundary Between India and Sri Lanka

*693. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been persistent demand to demarcate clearly the maritime boundary between India and Sri Lanka for easier identification; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL). (a) The maritime boundary between India and Sri Lanka has already been de-limited by the two Maritime Boundary Agreements of 1974 and 1976. Because of incidents involving inadvertent straying of Indian fishermen into Sri Lanka waters, there have been requests for measures to enable easier identification of the maritime boundary.

(b) Government are considering various proposals in this regard.

Restructuring of Poverty Alleviation Programme

*694. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for further restructuring the poverty alleviation programmes like IRDP, NREP, RLEGP, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) and (b). There is no proposal for further restructuring IRDP, NREP and RLEGP have been restructured with their merger and launching of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) in April, 1989. Besides, Government have also decided to make a beginning of employment guarantee programme in the rural areas in selected districts from the current year; the details of this are being worked out.

Post Offices in Rural Areas of Maharashtra

*695. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sub Post Offices and Branch Post Offices in Maharashtra;

(b) whether demands have been received for setting up of more Post Offices especially in the rural areas of the State; and

(c) if so, the total number of Post Offices, Sub Post offices and Branch Post Offices likely to be opened in Maharashtra during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) As on 1.1.1990 there were 2168 sub post offices and 9516 branch post offices in Maharashtra.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) So far, sanctions have been issued for 6 sub post offices and 69 branch post offices to be opened in Maharashtra during 1990-91.

Pending Letters from Members of Parliament for Action

*696. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received from the Members of Parliament for final disposal during the last three years which are still pending; and

(b) the details of steps taken to expedite the replies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). The details of the information in this regard are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Telephone Connections to M.P.s' Recommendations

*697. SHRI SUBEDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer given on 29 March, 1990 to Unstarred Question No. 2620 regarding telephone connections on the recommendations of Members of Parliament and state:

(a) when the telephones released on the recommendations of Members of Parliament in March, 1990 are actually to be installed and made operative; and

(b) the number of letters of Members of Parliament received upto 15th April, 1990 for grant of telephone connection on priority basis still pending and when will action be completed on such letters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Telephone connections sanctioned on out of turn priority basis including those sanctioned on the