

Government, 40 per cent by the Government of Maharashtra and 35 per cent by the Government of Goa - - the remaining 20 per cent was to be borne by the Mughal line. Therefore, I cannot agree that it is only due to mal-administration, as suggested by the hon Member

[*Translation*]

PROF MAHADEO SHIWANKAR I would like to know whether the Government propose to take some measures to reduce the losses? Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government have under-taken any review to assess the additional requirement of steamer services between Bombay and Goa. If so, the result thereof

[*English*]

SHRI K P UNNIKRIISHNAN Sir as I have said, I am entirely sympathetic to this demand. So, the suggestion made by the hon Member can be considered when we decide to resume the service

Security Expenses on Ministers and VIPs

*336 SHRIA VIJAYARAGHAVAN Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce security expenses on Ministers and other VIPs and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) (a) and (b) The security arrangements for the Union Ministers and other VIPs are made on the basis of threat assessment carried out by the concerned security agencies. These arrangements are being reviewed from time to time

SHRI A VIJAYARAGHAVAN Sir I mainly asked this question because of the

increase in the expenses of VIP security and especially security to the Ministers. We all agreed that enough security is to be given to the Ministers and other VIPs, no doubt. But unfortunately a new culture has developed in our country among the political leaders that a fleet of security personnel around them shows the dignity of the leaders. Unfortunately that became the status symbol. The capacity and the requirement of security personnel was not reviewed properly. I want to know whether there will be a strict security and categorisation for those people from whom special security arrangement is needed. Has the new Government undertaken such an exercise in order to rationalise the security arrangements of the Ministers?

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED

Sir, the security is being provided by the Government on the basis of the assessment made by the respective security agencies whether he is a Minister or a public man

It is not the Government or the individual who is deciding, but it is the security agency which sees the threat perception of public men and then we provide security

SHRIA VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, while making security arrangements, security personnel are harassing the people, especially in New Delhi. After the new Government came to power, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers are quite different from the Ministers of the previous Government. They are ready to stop before the red signal, etc. But, even now the security personnel are harassing the people, they are stopping the vehicles, they are stopping the passengers who are travelling in scooters and are trying to take the vehicles away from roadside. I would like to know from the hon Minister whether any such instructions are given to the security personnel and if so, what are those instructions?

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED

Sir, certain precautionary measures are to be taken while providing security. As I have already said that it is according to the threat perception of any public man and we

have to provide adequate security personnel for this purpose.

SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister about the amount of security expenses for the political VIPs and non political VIPs. Among the political VIPs, what are the security expenses for the ruling Party i.e. for the Ministers and what are the security expenses for the Leader of the Opposition ? I want a detailed break-up of the expenses.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED : Sir, it is very difficult to give all the details, but I have some details with me in respect of the former Prime Minister and in respect of Ministers. I must say that as far as the security of Ministers and public men is concerned, there are four categories, X, Y, Z and Super Z, i.e. persons who have high security risks, 'X' category would mean that 2 PSOs would be provided; this may be in one, two or three shifts depending on the parameters. 'X-2' means one PSO would be provided at a time. In 'Y' category, 2 PSOs would be provided round the clock and a house guard whose basic unit is one Head Constable and 4 Constables; one Scanner would also be provided, if necessary. Category 'Z' means 2 PSOs would be provided round the clock and a basic unit of house guards with 2 Head Constables and 8 Constables. Two Scanners and an Escort Car would also be provided, if necessary. In all these cases of 'Y' and 'Z' categories, additional security is provided, as considered necessary which depends upon the threat perception in respect of each individual. Persons under 'Z' or Super-'Z' category are also provided with a bullet-proof car in addition to 'Z' category security.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any increase in security expenses of VIPs and Ministers in Kerala. I have heard that they are trying to reduce the security expenses. I would like to know whether there is any reduction in the expenses.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Sir, I cannot give the details regarding Kerala.

[*Translation*]

SHRIDAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister the number of threats received by the leaders of the then opposition during the last four years and measures taken by the Government for their security in view of those threats as also total amount of money spent thereon.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated earlier that some norms have been formulated on the basis of which security protection is provided to the individuals no, matter whether he is a Minister or a public man. Security is provided, on the basis of intelligence reports that the life of the public man is threatened. However, I do not have individual details. Political affiliation of the individual is not taken into account while providing security to him.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the individual who have been provided security are misusing it as the services of security personnel deployed for their security are being unutilized for domestic purposes such as bringing vegetables from the market and escorting their children to school, etc. I would like to know whether the Government intend to withdraw this facility from such people ?

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the prevailing condition of terrorism in the country, particularly in Kashmir where terrorists are hanker after the lives of the nationalists, there can not be let up in security arrangements on the part of the Government. As you know the fates of leaders like Shri Mir Mustafa, Shri Gulab Bani and Shri Abdul Sattar Ranjur. It is not our concern as to whether they are misusing their services for domestic work. We are to provide protection to the leaders

whose lives are in danger. This is being done to serve the national interest.

[English]

National Highway Links in Maharashtra Regions

*338. DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Union Government has been drawn to the handicaps faced by Vidharbha, Marathwada and some other regions of Maharashtra in their development on account of not being adequately linked with the National Highways; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or contemplated to improve the linkage of those regions with the National Highways ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir We have received representation for the declaration of new National highways in the backward region of Vidharbha, Marathwada and other region of Maharashtra. Maharashtra has 2918 Km of National Highways out of a total of 33612 Kms. Regions like Vidharbha and Marathwada are also served by National Highways. There have however, been demands for more National Highways Addition to National Highways in the 8th Plan will depend upon the Plan provision and priority considerations.

DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Sir, he has not answered part (b) of my question, namely what are the steps taken or contemplated to improve the linkage of those regions with the National Highways

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: As I have explained in the brief statement, we are aware of it and we have received several representations from Marathwada, Vidharbha and Konkan regions, backward regions of Maharashtra as well as from

various other backward areas from all over the country.

As far as Maharashtra is concerned, in the year 1985, during the Seventh Five Year Plan, the State Government has sought inclusion of 11 number of national highways, approximating to about 4679 kms.

Another requirement was, according to them in the Seventh Plan; Ratnagiri-Khoplapur-Sholapur-Nagpur-Nanded- Yeotmal-Nagpur Road. The roads are in the regions of Maharashtra.

There have been several other representations demanding various other network linking backward regions of Vidharbha and Marathwada. As I explained, this could be considered depending upon the Plan provisions and resources available and accordingly, priority could be given for certain essential linkages.

DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Sir, my first question is that Marathwada in Maharashtra is a backward region. The report of the Dhandekar Committee which was set up for this purpose observed that the proportion of roads in Maharashtra is the lowest in the country the most backward district in the country. I am sorry to say that the linkage does not exist at all. The national highway in Marathwada is in one corner of the district. Out of 2,918 KM in Maharashtra, less than 40 KM are in Marathwada which forms about 1/4th of Maharashtra. Justice has not been done to Marathwada for the last 42 years. Nothing has been done to promote the national highway. My question to the hon. Minister is whether he has a specific plan to provide National highways in the region of Marathwada because so far nothing has been done

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Generally, in the debate on Questions, there is not of confusion. One is the confusion between requirement for effective roadways which, of course, everybody accepts and then the question of State highways and national highways. As you are well aware, the Union