

1	2	3
<b>Union Territory</b>		
1. Andaman and Nicobar		234
2. Chandigarh		200
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		125
4. Daman and Diu		108
5. Delhi		2673
6. Lakshadweep		60
7. Pondicherry		695
Total (for Union Territories)		4095
Grant Total		184987

**Setting up of Corporation for Water Transport Services**

\*30. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to form a Corporation to start water transport service in cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras to reduce the pressure on other modes of transport; and

(b) whether there is any scheme which would also encourage private parties to participate in such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The Central Government have no such proposal. The Government of West Bengal have intimated that they have a proposal to form a Corporation to start water transport service on the river Hooghly between Calcutta and Howrah.

(b) There is a scheme of interest subsidy for acquisition of inland water transport vessels.

**Setting up of National Ports Authority**

\*31. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :  
SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to set up National Ports Authority to introduce greater professionalism and specialisation in the ports sectors has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, when it is likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not possible to indicate now a definite date by which it can be finalised.

[*Translaion*]

**Widening of National Highways**

\*32. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to widen all the National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the National Highways, State-wise, proposed to be widened; and

(c) the time by which the National Highways are likely to be widened in view of the increasing traffic in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c). Widening/development of National Highways is a continuing process and is taken up in a phased manner depending upon the traffic volume and availability of funds.

[*English*]

**Environmental Pollution in Metropolitan Cities**

\*33. SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to experts, due to air pollution, diseases like asthma, bronchitis and other complicated diseases are on the increase particularly in the metropolitan cities;

(b) whether Government have made any

systematic survey about the extent of pollution dangerous for health now prevailing in metropolitan cities, industrial complexes and around the vicinity of big miles;

(c) if so, the names of the places affected badly and the extent of pollution at these places; and

(d) if no such survey has been made the reasons thereof and when this is likely to be undertaken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :

(a) No conclusive evidence is available in this regard.

(b) Survey carried out on the extent of air pollution in certain pockets of metropolitan cities have shown that there is an increase in the trend of pollution.

(c) Some of the places where the levels of suspended particulate matters are beyond the prescribed limits are Chembur, Lalbaug and Parel in Bombay, Lal Kaun in Delhi, Coal Mining areas in Jharia, Dhanbad etc.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Depletion of Gold Reserves

\*34. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :  
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 27th May, 1988 wherein it has been stated that gold reserves are depleting at an alarming rate in the country;

(b) whether steps have been taken to locate new yellow metal mines in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (c). The Government is aware of the depletion of gold reserves in the country which has occurred mainly on account of exhaustion

of reserves in the working mines of the Kolar Gold Field under operation for over a century. The steps taken to identify new reserves include intensification of exploration through the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) and exploration of new gold deposits by Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML). The MECL is continuing detailed exploration over the following blocks :

#### Karnataka State

(1) Gadag Gold Field—Hosur Champion East and West blocks and Mysore Mine Option block.

(2) Hutti Gold Field—Buddini and Wandali blocks.

(3) Nuggihalli schist belt—Kempinkote.

#### Andhra Pradesh

Kolar schist belt — Old Bisanatham mine and Chigargunta.

#### Bihar State

Porojarna Mine block, Kunderkocha gold deposit, Singhbhum District.

#### Maharashtra

Kolari gold prospect, Bhandara District.

The GSI is carrying out regional exploration for gold in the Gadag and Hutti gold fields (Karnataka) and Kolar schist belt (in Karnataka and its extensions in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu) as well as in the States of Kerala, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. The BGML has conducted feasibility studies on the Chigargunta gold deposit and has plans to produce initially 250 tonnes per day gradually increasing it to 500 TPD of gold ore.

(d) A total amount of about Rupees 40 crores has so far been sanctioned since 1980 for completed and running gold projects of Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited out of which about Rupees 27 crores have been spent. In addition the Geological Survey of India carries out regional exploration for minerals, including gold, through