

Punjab Government as well as other States and organisations in the region. The facilities of the Centre are used by the Punjab Government to the extent of about one-third of both time and revenue, annually.

(c) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loss of Forest on Road Sides In Punjab

1172. BABA SUCHA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in Punjab there has been a large scale encroachment of forest areas on the road sides, in form of various kinds of constructions;

(b) If so, the details of action taken to remove it and to prevent it; and

(c) the details of forest loss and environment loss?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Roads in Bihar

1173. SHRI LAL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a road construction scheme had been formulated in 1976 under the Master Plan of National Highways for the construction of roads in Hajipur, Chhapra, Siwan upto Uttar Pradesh border with estimated expenditure of 57.4 crores of rupees;

(b) whether the National Transport Development Council had recommended its inclusion in Eighth Five Year Plan for completing its construction work; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) to (c). The development of Hajipur-Chhapra-Siwan road, which forms a part of the State Road network, is the responsibility of the Government of Bihar. The National Transport Policy Committee had recommended certain State Roads for inclusion in the National Highway grid which inter-alia includes Ghazipur-Ballia-Chhapra-Hajipur road partly covering the road in question. However, owing to financial stringency and other priority considerations, it National Highway net work.

[*English*]

Postage Stamp on 350th Anniversary of Pune City

1174. PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum requesting for the release of special Postage Stamp on the occasion of 350th Anniversary of Pune city of Maharashtra; and

(b) If so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Philatelic Advisory Committee functions in the Department to advise the Government regarding issue of commemorative/special postage stamps & other re-