

[1 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

that suggestions made before it for looking into the criteria for granting Special Category Status to States should be examined.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The situation arising out of long dry spell during current South-West Monsoon period in some of the States including Karnataka was reviewed in a meeting taken by the Union Agriculture Minister with Agriculture and Relief Ministers of States on 24.7.2002 and the situation is constantly reviewed for suitable action.

Development of roads In North-Eastern Region

1739. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop the infrastructure further particularly in road and highways sector in North-Eastern Region during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to convert important roads in Assam and in other States of North-Eastern Region into Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) At present there is no proposal to declare new National Highways in Assam or other States of North-Eastern Region. However, based on traffic needs, other priorities and the availability of funds, such proposals may be considered in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

National Highways in Bihar

1740. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of National Highways passes through Bihar;

(b) how many kms. of this is fit to travel at the speed of 60 km/hr.;

(c) the length of the road that needs repair and is being repaired presently; and