

(b) The SCI has proposed to meet the outlay of Rs. 567 crores from their internal resources (Rs. 113.40 crore) and by raising External Commercial Borrowing (ECB)/Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) (Rs. 453.60 crores). The SCI have now revised their plan to acquire 14 vessels instead of 16 vessels earlier proposed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The SCI has a plan to acquire/place order for the acquisition of following vessels during 2000-01:—

- (i) 5 Aframax Tankers (4 New and 1 Second hand)
- (ii) 1 LR-II tanker from Cochin Shipyard Limited (New)
- (iii) 3 Tugs (New)
- (iv) 1 VLCC (Second hand)
- (v) 2 Capesize bulk carriers (New)
- (vi) 2 Chemical tankers (New)

Development of Buckingham Canal for inland water transport

3328. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under active consideration to develop the Buckingham Canal in Andhra Pradesh for inland water transport;

(b) whether such a proposal has received serious attention from the inland water transport authorities;

(c) if so, the details of the findings;

(d) whether this proposal has been found to be technically feasible;

(e) if so, whether any estimate of the costs involved have been made;

(f) whether any foreign technical assistance has been sought; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Techno-economic feasibility study for development of Kakinada- Mercaunum canal system integrated with Godavari and Krishna rivers has been undertaken.

(c) and (d) The study has shown that the development of this waterway system for inland shipping and navigation is viable.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Presently no foreign technical assistance has been sought for.

Master Plan for National Highways

3329. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a master plan for building highways around the country have been evolved by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the plan outlay, time frame etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Highway Development Project (NHDP) comprising of 4/6 laning of the existing national highways along the East-West and North-South corridor from Silchar to Saurashtra and Srinagar to Kanyakumari respectively and the Golden Quadrilateral connecting the four metros viz., Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta and Cochin-Salem spur on NH-47 has been launched. The entire project is estimated to cost Rs. 54,000 crores (at current prices) and is targeted to be completed by the year 2009.

Utilisation of Unutilised land at Kandla Port

3330. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land earmarked for Kandla port in Gujarat and the total land actually utilised by Kandla Port and other activities in the area for Central Public Sector Co-operative Undertakings;

(b) the remaining area of land lying unutilised;

(c) whether Government would support various activities relating to industrial development of this backward region and insist on land remaining idle with Kandla Port Trust; and