

traffic and for making the National Highways more safe. In addition to this, education and publicity programmes are also undertaken to increase road safety, awareness among road users.

Acquisition of Land for Rest Areas in Andhra Pradesh

570. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will he Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) wheather Government has made any specific effort to acquire land in Andhra Pradesh for a much demanded REST AREA;

(b) if so, the quantum of land acquired;

(c) whether the road safety authorities have welcomed suggestions from concerned citizens on the high number of fatalities in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons for neglecting road safety in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Land acquisition for one such facility at Palamner on NH-4 has been completed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Road Accidents on NH-5

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

(a) whether any special effort is being made by the National Highways Authority of India to reduce road accidents;

(b) whether it is a fact that no special design work has been done to improve roads from the safety angle;

[29th February, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether this aspect has been drawn to the attention of the NHAI;

(d) whether any particular steps have been taken by the NHAI on National Highway 5 to address the concerns raised by social activists;

(e) whether it is a fact that immediate response is not being given; and

(f) if so, the reasons for this lethargic attitude?

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

(b) to (f) The National Highways Authority of India is in the process of development of various sections of the National Highways Development Project including National Highway No. 5. The Authority has taken up the work of project preparation before the actual execution of various projects. Requisite safety aspects including safety design are considered at the project preparation stage. Once projects based on these project reports are executed, road accidents are expected to reduce considerably.

Losses suffered due to Port Workers Strike

572. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated loss due to the recent port workers' strike;

(b) the steps being taken to prevent such strikes to save huge loss occurring due to these strikes;

(c) the time frame by which striking workers' demands are to be implemented; and

(d) whether Government are planning to prevent these type of strikes in the future?

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