- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) what action Government propose to take to achieve the target of National Highways in Gujarat by the turn of this century?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) No targets have been fixed

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Loss of Economy due to strike by private bus operators

117. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR: SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the extent of the loss to the economy and the inconvenience caused to public due to the recent strike of the private passenger bus operators who were protesting against the irresponsible manner in which the service tax is being levied:
- (b) what are the steps Government have taken to prevent such inconvenience to public and the loss to the economy due to such strike:
- (c) what were the demands of the strikers; and
- (d) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) to (d) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Losses incurred by Indian Road Transport Corporation

118. DR. MOHAN BABU: DR. ALLALI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) the accumulated losses of the Indian Road Transport Corporation;
- (b) whether it is a fact that during the last 12 years several high powered committees have recommended closure of this ailing corporation; and
- (c) the reasons for which their recommendations have not been implemented and the present policy of Government with regard to winding up of the corporation?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Indian Roads Constructions Corporation whose accumulated losses aggregate to Rs. 452.946 crores.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) It has since been decided to wind up the Corporation.

पत्तनों पर माल चढाना और उतारना

119. श्री नागमणिः चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादवः

- (क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ पत्तनों पर काफी भीड़-भाड़ है जिसके कारण आयात और निर्यात की जाने वाली बहुत सी चीजें पत्तनों पर पड़ी रहती हैं और निर्यात किए जाने वाले माल को चढ़ाने और उतारने में काफी समय लग जाता है:
 - (ख) यदि हां, तो उन फतनों के नाम क्या है; और
- (ग) सरकार ने उन पत्तनों पर माल चढ़ाने और उतारने में कोई देरी न हो इसके लिए क्या प्रयास किये है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी॰ जी॰ वेंकटरामन): (क) और (ख) जी हां। मुंबई, है।

(ग) महापत्तनों में भीड-भाड को हटाने और बर्ध-पर्व ठहराने के समय को कम करने के लिए दिनांक 1 सितम्बर, 1997 से एक अभियान शुरू किया गया है। सभी महापत्तनों में माल प्रहस्तन में अपूर्व सुधार हुआ

Sinking of Cargo Ships near Bombay Port

VENKATESHWAR 120. DR. D. RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of cargo ships have mysteriously sank in the sea near Bombay port in recent
- (b) if so, the number of ships that sank during the last one and a half years; and
- (c) whether any enquiry has been made to find out the reasons for such a high rate of accidents and, if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) to (c) During the last one and a half years, eight cargo ships have sunk/grounded-3 within Mumbai Port limits for which the Mumbai Port Trust is carrying out preliminary enquiries. Out of 5 other cases which sank out side the Mumbai Port limits, Director General of Shipping, Mumbai has completed preliminary enquiry in 3 cases which indicate that the mishaps happened due to structural failure leading to ingress of water through the shell opening, poor condition of the Vessels and inclement weather conditions. In the other 2 cases, the Directorate is yet to complete the pre-

Panel to Examine new Shipping Policy

liminary enquiry.

121. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS-PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which

appeared in the Hindustan Times dated August 18, 1997 captioned "Panel to examine new Shipping Policy"; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of Pinto Committee and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Pinto Committee Report are under consideration of the Government.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के निर्माण पर किया गया व्यय

122. श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत: क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) गत तीन वर्षों में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के निर्माण पर सरकार द्वारा राज्यवार कुल कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई है:

(ख) राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग संख्या 8 पर जयपर से अजमेर के बीच चलने वाले वाहनों के गत तीन वर्षों में कितनी दुर्घटनाएं हुई, कितने व्यक्तियों की मत्य हुई. कितने व्यक्ति घायल हुए एवं कितने वाहन क्षतिग्रस्त हुए:

(ग) सरकार की बीमा कंपनियों से उक्त दर्घटनाओं के कारण कितनी राशि की क्षतिपूर्ति के दावे पिछले तीन वर्षों में प्रस्तृत हुए; और

(घ) क्या सरकार इस जयपर-अजमेर मार्ग को छः लाईन में बदलने का विचार रखती है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी॰ जी॰ **वेंकटरामन):** (क) एक विवरण संलग्न (नीचे देखिए) ।

(ख) केन्द्रीय सडक अनसंधान संस्थान द्वारा किए गए एक अध्ययन के अनुसार रा॰ रा॰-८ पर जयपुर से अजमेर तक के मार्ग में से जयप्र-किशनगढ खंड के 1991-93 अवधि से संबंधित दुर्घटना-आंकड़े इस प्रकार हैं:---

वर्ष	दुर्घटनाओं	मारे गए	घायल हुए
		व्यक्तियों की	
		संख्या	संख्या
1991	268	79	397
1992	240	71	330
1993	401	89	441