

Construction of Doboka Lumding National Highway in Assam

1503. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the earlier Government had recommended the proposals for construction of National Highway connecting from Doboka-Lanka-Lumding via Haflong-Silcher in Assam;

(b) if so, the details of action being taken by Government so far and the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

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

(a) to (d) This route was recommended by Shukla Commission for declaration as a new National Highway. However, the proposal can be considered alongwith proposals from other States, subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Aggressive Campaign for Visakhapatnam Port Container Cargo

1504. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Visakhapatnam Port Trust propose to launch an aggressive campaign to project the port as a favourite destination for container cargo;

(b) the target set-up to handle cargo and container traffic during the current fiscal year; and

(c) the progress of construction of multipurpose berth in this regard in the outer harbour?

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

(a) The Port has plans to develop container handling facilities.

(b) An aggregate Cargo Traffic Target of 36.00 Million Tonnes has been fixed which includes 1.50 lakh Tonnes of containerised cargo for the year 1998-99.

(c) The construction of multipurpose Berth in the outer harbour is in progress and is likely to be ready by 1999-2000.

Jetties Operating at Kandla Port

1505. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jetties operating at Kandla Port at present;

(b) the number of jetties that are in actual operation there; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of jetties are not operating and not in working condition there; if so, the measures taken or proposed by Government in order to make all the jetties in working condition to clear the workload?

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

(a) and (b) At Kandla Port, in all there are seven berths to handle dry cargo and seven jetties to handle liquid cargo in operation.

(c) Does not arise as all the berths are operational.

Road Accidents on National Highway No. 3

1506. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highway No. 3 has a record of accident during 1996-97 between Mumbai and Nasik;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the road width is inadequate considering the volume and width of vehicles using the road connecting the major industrial cities Nasik and Mumbai; and

(c) whether Government propose to widen this strip on priority basis?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, A provision of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been made in the Annual Plan (1998-99) for carrying out survey and investigation for four-laning of Mumbai-Nasik segment of N.H. No. 3 in the Maharashtra State.

Wage Revision of Port and Dock Workers

1507. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether port and dock workers' labour unions are demanding wage revision; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Bipartite Wage Negotiations Committee has been constituted to go into the wage revision of port and dock workers.

Declining Investment in Road Sector

1508. PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government investment on roads is reducing;

(b) if so, whether the private sector is expected to fill the wide gaps between allocation of funds and requirement; and

(c) the progress made by the private sector in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. It is reducing in terms of percentage of total outlay of various Five Year Plans.

(b) Yes, Sir to the extent feasible.

(c) So far 11 projects costing about Rs. 580 crores have been awarded to

Private Sector and are at various stages of completion.

12 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts of Air Port Authority of India, Indian Airlines, Vayudoot Pawan Hans Ltd. New Delhi and I.G.R. Uran Academy and related papers

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under subsection (4) of section 28 of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994:—

(i) Second Annual Report and Accounts of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi for the year 1996-97, together with the Audit Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 66198]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Airlines Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 78598]

(ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Airlines Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, to-