

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the causes identified for prevailing situation in ITI; and
- (d) the steps contemplated by Government to retrieve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The peak network of ITI has been eroded by more than 50% as at the end of 31st March 1996 due to the losses suffered by the Company during 1994-95 and 1995-96. The details of the losses and network are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Loss/Profit	Network
1993-94	84.35 (Profit)	521.08
1994-95	81.91 (Loss)	461.55
1995-96	283.% (Loss)	210.37

(c) The main reasons for decline in financial performance of the Company during 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as follows:—

- (i) Reduction in the prices of telecom, equipment affected the turnover of the Company by about Rs. 277 crores during 1994-95 as compared to the year 1993-94 and Rs. 172 crores during 1995-96 as compared to the year 1994-95.
 - (ii) Interest burden (about 19% of the turnover in 1995-96) owing to large borrowings by the Company.
 - (iii) Owing to the opening up of the telecom, sector, a large number of manufacturers have set up units in private sector. DOT procures equipment on the basis of tenders. The orders given to the Company depend upon their ranking in the tender.
 - (iv) The manpower cost of the Company is very much on the high side. (About 33% of the turnover in 1995-96).
 - (v) Obsolescence of certain products of the Company resulting in under utilisation of capacity.
- (d) The following measures have been taken by the Government to support the Company:
- (i) A Committee has been constituted with representatives from the Department and

ITI for suggesting methods for* neutralising the additional costs incurred by the Company on account of social and other heads;

- (ii) An *ad-hoc* amount of Rs. 62 crores has been released to the Company pending settlement of Liquidated Damages cases and other financial issues; (iii) 20% to 30% of the orders of DOT are reserved for the Company outside the tender;
- (iv) Advance payment of 50% is made for the Purchase Orders placed on the Company outside the tender;
- (v) The Company has been advised to engage a firm of Consultants having expertise in turn around strategies for improving and retrieving the Company from the present situation.

Statutory Development Board for Konkan

1988. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made for establishment of separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan, as the resolution has already been passed by the State Government in March, 1989 and is still pending with Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the consideration of the resolution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The Development Board for the rest of Maharashtra was established in 1994. This Board covers, inter-alia, the Konkan region. It would be desirable to watch the usefulness of this Board for sometime more before making any change in its constitution.

Bad condition of National Highways in North-Eastern Region

1989. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the very bad condition of National Highways in the North Eastern part of India;

(b) if so, the new measures proposed to be taken to counter this regular damages caused to the Highways; and

(c) whether it is a fact that regular maintenance of National Highways could not be made due to paucity of funds?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRIT.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) Budgetary allocations for development of National Highways have not kept pace with the requirements, as a result the network has several deficiencies like inadequate capacity, weak pavement, narrow bridges, etc. All efforts are being made in prioritise the works keeping in view the traffic requirements, and the National Highways are being maintained in traffic-worthy condition within the available resources. For the North Eastern States, a sum of Rs. 29.70 crores and Rs. 20.18 crores have been allocated (excluding Jogigopa Bridge and approaches) towards development and maintenance & repairs of National Highways, respectively, for the current year.

Officers visited foreign countries to canvass for support for security council

1990. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of the Foreign Office who have undertaken foreign tours in recent months to canvass for support for our Security Council seat bid;

(b) the details of countries they have visited and the dignitaries they have met; and

(c) the reports submitted by these officials on their tour?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Visits to 137 countries [list enclosed as Statement. (See below)] were undertaken by Envoys of EAM from January 1996 to October 1996 to canvass support for India's candidature to the non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Important Summit level meetings were particularly targeted in Africa, Americas and the Caribbean and our case was projected

among participating Member States at high levels.

Twenty one distinguished retired Foreign Service officers and Secretary level officers and Divisional Heads within the Ministry were deputed for these visits. A ministerial level representative was sent to the OAU Summit. As EAM's Special Envoys the delegates usually called on Foreign Ministers of those countries, apart from senior officials. The reports of the envoys were found useful in making an assessment of the position.

Statement

List of countries visited by EAM's Special Envoys

Afghanistan	Czech Republic
Algeria	Denmark
Andorra	Djibouti
Angola	Dominica
Antigua & Barbuda	Dominican Republic
Argentina	Ecuador
Armenia	Egypt
Austria	El Salvador
Azerbaijan	Eritrea
Bahrain	Estonia
Barbados	Ethiopia
Belarus	France
Belgium	Finland
Belize	Gambia
Benin	Georgia
Bolivia	Germany
Botswana	Ghana
Brunei	Greece
Bulgaria	Grenada
Burkina Faso	Gautemala
Burundi	Guinea
Cambodia	Guinea Bissau
Cameroon	Guyana
Cape Verde	Honduras
Central African Republic	Indonesia
Chile	Iran
Columbia	Ireland
Comoros	Italy
Congo	Jamaica
Costa Rica	Jordan
Cote d'Ivoire	Kazakhstan
Croatia	Kenya
Cyprus	Kuwait
	Kyrgyzstan