

and sale yarn which have much export potential;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been made by his Ministry to utilise this expertise of IJIRA for promoting export of these jute products; and

(c) whether any financial allocation has been made for promoting this technological expertise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. IJIRA, Calcutta has developed such technology (hydrocarbon free jute bags) and it has export potential.

(b) and (c) IJIRA interacts with the industry for such promotional activities utilising internal resources.

Sick Textile Mills in Punjab

1699. **SHRI IQBAL SINGH:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of textile mills are sick in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) AND (b) As on 31.5.96, 6 mills in Punjab were registered with BIFR as sick namely:

1. Khanna Silk Mills
2. Punjab Spg & Wvg. Mills Ltd.
3. Punjab Spg. & Wvg. Mills
4. JCT Fibres Ltd.
5. Punjab State Hosiery & Knitwear Dev.
6. Shri Lalit Fabrics (P) Ltd.

(c) Government has set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for their revival.

सड़क विकास की योजना

1700. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश में सड़क विकास की कोई योजना बनाई है;

(ख) क्या सन् 2001 तक राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की दोहरीकृत सड़कों की लम्बाई 45,530 कि०मी० और सिंगल लेन मार्गों की लम्बाई 18,500 कि०मी० करने का प्रस्ताव है; और

(ग) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश में कितनी आंतरिक लम्बाई की सड़कों को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग घोषित किया जाना प्रस्तावित है और इसके लिये कितने किलोमीटर लम्बी सड़क स्वीकृत की गई है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी. जी. वेंकटरामन): (क) यह मंत्रालय मुख्यतः राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के विकास के लिए उत्तरदायी है। अन्य सभी सड़कों संबंधित राज्य सरकारों के कार्य क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत आती हैं। जहां तक राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों का संबंध है, उनका विकास एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है और सुधार कार्य विभिन्न पंचवर्षीय/वार्षिक योजनाओं के जरिए किए जाते हैं।

(ख) इस समय ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

(ग) मध्य प्रदेश राज्य में किसी राज्यीय सड़क को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग घोषित नहीं किया गया है और न ही ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन है।

Financial assistance for revival of DTC

1701. **SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA:**
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest status report on financial aspect of Delhi Transport Corporation;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Corporation has approached the Union Government to extend financial assistance for its revival;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a comprehensive plan for the Corporation is under the consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The latest status report on financial aspect of DTC for the year 1995-96 is given hereunder:—

	(Rs. in crs.)
1. Total Income	140.67
2. Working Exp.	234.87
3. Working loss (1-2)	94.20
4. Depreciation & Interest on Govt. loan	294.75
5. Prior Period adj. (+)	3.34
6. Total Expenditure (2+4+5)	532.96
7. Net Loss (6-1)	392.29

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The decision is yet to be taken.

Atrocities on Harijans and Backward Classes in Uttar Pradesh

1702. **SHRI RAJ BABBAR:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of atrocities committed on Harijans and Backward Classes in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the action Government have taken thereon; and

(c) the number of persons arrested/prosecuted and the nature of action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sinking of Water-Level

1703. **SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States where water-level is sinking every year and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the water-level in Punjab is also going down; if so, to what extent; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the water-level in these States especially in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA): (a) As per long term observations, decline in the levels of ground water of more than 4 metres has been observed in certain pockets in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The decline in the ground water level in some parts of the country is attributable to several natural and human factors like heavy withdrawals, exceeding replenishment, excessive run off and variation in rainfall etc.

(b) In Punjab, decline of 4 to 5 metres in the levels of ground water has been observed in parts of districts of Amritsar, Ferozpur, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Roper and Sangrur.

(c) Certain measures like artificial recharge of ground water through construction of check dams, percolation tanks as well as changes in cropping pattern are in vogue in various States including Punjab to improve ground water level.

Vacation of Kangla Fort, Imphal by Assam Rifles

1704. **SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 611 given in Rajya Sabha on 6th March, 1996 and state:

(a) whether a portion of the Assam Rifles Battalion has been moved out of the Kangla Fort by March 31, 1996 as has been assured by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for shifting of the remaining portion at the earliest?