

Seizure of Currencies in Containers

1038. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to newsitem which appeared in the daily newspaper 'Dainik Lok Satta' (Marathi) of 1st July, 2000 captioned "Rs. One crore notes were found in the containers."

(b) if so, the type of vigilance Government have to inspect containers; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that weapons were also transported in the same mode?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. In Central Warehousing Corporation run Container Freight Station in Jawahar Lai Nehru Port, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have confiscated some containers, wherefrom some currency notes have been recovered by them.

(b) The checking and inspection of the containers is carried out by the Customs Department.

(c) No incident of weapons transported through containers in the J.L. Nehru Port area has been reported to the Ministry.

Repeal of Carriers Act

1039. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to repeal the Carriers Act, 1865;

(b) whether Government have agreed with the truckers to limit their liability to Rs. 7.5 lakhs in case of loss or damage occurring during transit and that the responsibility of the transporters in case of damage to property due to delay in delivery will be limited to the freight payable for the consignment; and

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(c) whether it is also a fact that it has also been agreed to absolve transporters of criminal liabilities for any loss or damage to the goods carried?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government have set up a Committee to examine the matter in detail and make recommendation for modification or repeal of this Act. The Committee has since submitted its report which has made large number of recommendations including bringing out a new comprehensive carriers Act. The recommendations made by the Committee also cast obligations on a number of other agencies including the insurance companies.

Pending Highway Proposals from Karnataka

1040. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of National Highways with kilometres;
- (b) the State-wise kilometres covered under National Highways; and
- (c) how many proposals have been received from Karnataka and pending since how long?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Details are given in the Statement I and II respectively. (*See below.*)

(c) The State Government of Karnataka have forwarded 10 proposals during the 9th Plan period. Out of these 6 proposals aggregating to a length of 1398 Kms. have already been declared as new National Highways.