

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):

(a) Dredging Corporation of India is equipped with eight Trailer Suction Dredgers, three Cutter Suction Dredgers, three Portable Cutter Suction Dredgers (Inland Dredgers) and a Desiltation Plant, one sea-going Tug, two Work Boats, two 'A' Frame Pontoons, one Crane Barge, three Cranes and two small Bulldozers.

(b) All of these equipments are in working condition.

(c) Total written down value of these equipments after accounting for depreciation is Rs. 200.42 crores. During the past three years, quantities dredged by DCI are given below:

1989-90	24.29 million M ³
1990-91	28.63 million M ³
1991-92	37.86 million M ³

(d) Does not arise as DCI has been consistently making profit since its inception.

Cultivation of Forests on the land along National Highways

3983. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land which is lying un-used on both sides of the National Highways in the country;

(b) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration for utilising this land for cultivating forests, in collaboration with the State Government; and

(c) if so, the detail, thereof and the percentage of land which has been brought so far under forest cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):

(a) to (c) Land on both sides of the National Highways for some width has

to be kept free from any obstruction for requirements of sight distance, traffic safety, laying of services, provision of service roads, drainage, improvement to junction, future widening etc.

Plantation of trees along National Highways is an accepted policy of the Government since the last several years, and is a continuing activity depending on availability of land within the right-of-way where plantation can be done, adequacy of funds etc. In most States, plantation of trees is being done through the State Forest/Horticulture Department, or in consultation with them.

According to an assessment made in September, 1991 tree plantation has been done in about 60 per cent of the length of the National Highways, where plantation is feasible.

Operation of private buses under DTC

3984. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the maximum number of passengers allowed in each category of the private buses under D.T.C. operation;

(b) the number of operating staff prescribed, including the driver, conductor and others;

(c) the number of such staff who are D.T.C. employees and also those who are employed by the private operators; and

(d) whether the above staff is required to wear uniform?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) 66 passengers in each bus.

(b) The Agreement entered into between DTC and the Private Operators prescribe that there should be a Conductor and a Driver in each of the private buses.

(c) All staff are employed by the private operators.

(d) Yes, Sir.