

for construction and operation of terminals, development of fairways, including dredging maintenance of navigational facilities etc., action has also been initiated for evolving policy measures for participation of private sector by extending suitable fiscal and financial incentives.

(b) The details of budgetary provisions for surface Transport and amount spent on roads and waterways during the period from 1997-98 to 2000-01 (upto June 2000) are given in the following table:—

(Rs. in thousands)

Year	Total Budget of Ministry of Surface Transport (excluding Recoveries)*	Amount spent on waterways & percentage		Amount spent on Roads & Percentage
1997-98	38257300	482800	1.26	28704900 75.03
1998-99	46553400	66500	0.14	27773900 59.66
1999-2000	76635500	521800	0.68	53330100 69.59
2000-01	80977700	165100@	0.20	4846665@ 5.96

*Includes both plan and No-Plans provisions Supplementary and Re-appropriation.
@Expenditure upto June 2000.

Introduction of VRS by the Indian Bankers' Association

*137. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Bankers' Association (IBA) has introduced a voluntary retirement scheme for its employees with a view to cutting its work force by about 50 per cent;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) what is the present strength of the employees in the banks and what is the response of the employees to this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Presumably, the reference is to the Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees

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of Public Sector Banks. No Voluntary Retirement Scheme has as yet been introduced for Public Sector Banks. However, a Committee comprising of representatives of Indian Banks' Association, Public Sector Banks and Ministry of Finance constituted for making recommendations on Human Resource Management in the Public Sector Banks has in its interim report, submitted to IBA, *inter alia*, recommended introduction of a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of Public Sector Banks. Indian Banks' Association has sent that report to the Government and has sought no objection from the Government for circulating this scheme to the banks for consideration and adoption by their Boards. The proposal of Indian Banks' Association is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The total strength of Public Sector Banks is about 8.8 lakh. Since the Voluntary Retirement Scheme has not yet been introduced, the reply to the Question with regard to response of employees does not arise.

Insurance cover to corporate deposit holders

***138. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to provide an Insurance cover to Corporate deposit holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed scheme is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.