

Conversion of highways into four lanes in Madhya Pradesh

‡3073. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal for converting some highways into four lanes under 'Pradhanmantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana'; and
- (b) if so, by when sanction would be accorded to the said works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) There is no programme at present named as 'Pradhanmantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana' for converting National Highways into four lanes.

- (b) Does not arise.

Dilution of reservation norms for compulsory use of jute bags

3074. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering a proposal to dilute the reservation norms for compulsory use of jute bags by 25 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the impact of diluting reservation norms on the jute growers and industry; and
- (d) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal with the Government to dilute the reservation norms for compulsory use of jute bags by 25 per cent.

(c) and (d) The reservation for Jute Packaging Material for packaging of foodgrains under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 leads to consumption of around 58% of the jute produced in the country. By bringing into effect the provision of JPM Act the Government provides relief to 37 lakh workers employed in Jute Mills and ancillary units as well as support the livelihood of around 40 lakh farm families. Besides, it helps to protect the environment because jute is a natural, biodegradable and reusable fibre. The dilution, if any, is affected in the packaging norms only after consultation with stakeholders to avoid disruption of foodgrain procurement in the country.

Non-availability of cotton in textile industry

‡3075. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country's textile industry is facing the crisis of cotton availability;

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.