

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: They must have been transplanted. After obtaining them, they don't throw them away.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*211. [The questioners (Shri Ram Awadhesh Singh and Shri Talari Manohar) were absent. For answer, vide cols. 40-41 infra].

National Highways in Rajasthan

*212. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of the National Highways in Rajasthan is deplorable;

(b) whether any study in this regard has been conducted; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) National Highways in Rajasthan are being maintained in traffic-worthy condition. The development of National Highways is a continuous process and the same are being upgraded depending upon the availability of resources and inter-se priority of works on an all-India basis.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, it is easy to say that condition of the National Highways in Rajasthan is not deplorable. But our experience shows it is very much different because if we pass through National Highways which connects Rajasthan with other states concurrently, I find the moment we reach the Rajasthan border, the moment we finish in that particular portion, the condition of the roadways are very, very bad. I wish some day the Minister will be able to see with me. This is the only thing I wanted to tell the Minister.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, the hon. Member is right to some extent. We have felt that some of the States are not paying that due attention which is required for National Highways and also we have received complaints that resources are not fully utilised in the proper way. That is why, the Centre is thinking to have a National Highways authority so that it can improve the National Highways conditions. This is an important sector of the traffic and do have a direct bearing on the economic conditions and other things. We are planning to have a National Highways so that these works could be executed by Central Government agencies and we can monitor them. Today the system is we are allotting funds to the States and they use these funds in their own discretion and their own way. The monitoring could not be that much effective. So I do share his feelings and the Government is taking action in that direction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: No, Sir.

SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA: Sir, may I know from the Minister regarding the progress of Baroda-Ahmedabad Autobahn project?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, this is a very important project and it is for the first time in this country we have taken up express ways. We have initiated that project. I myself had gone to the site and I think four months back or so, the work has started. We are monitoring that work and it is going to be one of the prestigious projects for the National Highways. The Government is fully aware of the importance and it is one of the projects which has been included in the world Bank aid. So we will see that it is completed in due time and proper work is done.

*213. [The questioner (Shri Yalla Sesi Bhushana Rao) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 41-42 infra.]