

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): Shri M. Singaravelu, Member of the Commission, belongs to a Scheduled Castes.

Repair of National Highway No. 34

1185. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway No. 34 between Islampur and Krishnanagar in West Bengal requires immediate repairs for normal traffic movement, and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) and (b) The stretch from Krishnanagar to Dalkhola (341 Kms) lies on National Highway 34 whereas that from Dalkhola to Islampur (about 59 Kms) lies on National Highway 31. Out of a total length of about 400 Kms between Krishnanagar and Islampur, only about 20 kms. had developed potholes and depressions due to very heavy rains during the last monsoons. Repairs necessary to ensure smooth flow of normal traffic have been carried out. Permanent remedial measures are in hand.

Strength of staff in the office of the Development Commissioner (Handloom)

1186. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present strength of staff in the office of the Development Commissioner (Handloom) under the Department of Textiles at present in each category;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to

expand the office to cope with the requirements of handloom industry in the country;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) by when the office is likely to be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) The present sanctioned strength of office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms is 83. Category-wise strength is as below:

Group 'A'	8
Group 'B'	13
Group 'C'	62
Group 'D'	1
TOTAL	83

(b) to (d) While no specific proposal is under consideration at present, the need for expansion of this office depends upon expansion of schemes and programme pertaining to the development of Handloom industry in the country as approved by Government from time to time. As and when new schemes/projects are undertaken new posts may have to be created.

Handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu and Assam

1187. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu and Assam at present as full-time workers and part-time workers, respectively;

(b) what incentives Central Government have given to the handloom weavers in each of the two States;