

resulted in the signing of the "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question" between the two sides on April 11, 2005 during the recent visit of the Chinese Premier to India. Based on the parameters and principles laid down in the Agreement, the Special Representatives have been tasked to continue their consultations with the objective of arriving at an agreed framework for a boundary settlement, which will provide the basis for the delineation and demarcation of the India-China boundary to be subsequently undertaken by civil and military officials and surveyors of the two sides. In addition, the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question, which is engaged in tasks relating to clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control and establishment of confidence building measures in the India-China border areas, continues its discussions.

(c) and (d) Government's policy towards China is characterized by continuity and consensus. In dealing with complex issues like the boundary question, it has been Government's endeavour to consult political parties and seek understanding and support of the Parliament.

New Highways in Rajasthan

†*482. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as five new highways had been notified in the month of February, 2004 in Rajasthan and the Government of Rajasthan had furnished no objection certificate for the issuance of interim order in this regard in March, 2004 itself; and

(b) if so, by when the requisite orders in this regard are likely to be issued and the funds likely to be provided for the repair of these new national highways?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five State Highways have been declared as National Highways (NHs) in February, 2004. These are National Highways No. 112, 113, 114, 116 and 118. The notification for entrustment of these National Highways was issued on 29th October, 2004. Maintenance and repair of new National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Highways is a continuous process and allocation in 2005-06 depends upon inter-se-priority of works in the state and also availability of funds.

EPFB's Investment in Schemes

***483. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Board is thinking of investing money in various schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Provident Fund money is invested as per the pattern of investment notified by the Government from time to time. The investment pattern notified by the Ministry of Labour on 9th July 2003 provides for investment of EPF money in Central Government Securities, State Government Securities, Bonds/Securities of Public Financial Institutions, Term deposits receipts of Public Sector Banks and private sector bonds/securities. However, CBT (EPF) has decided not to invest in the private sector bonds/securities.

Making FDI Policy more Amenable to It Industry

***486. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:**
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether conceding that foreign institutional investment in telecom companies is function of the market dynamics, Government have decided to allow companies upto four months to pare their foreign holding to the stipulated 74 per cent;

(b) whether to make telecom foreign direct investment (FDI) policy more amenable to industry, Government are also likely to permit telecom companies to outsource software processes to agencies from remote destinations;