

stipulated time. I request the Ministry to take proper initiative in this regard, before finalising the notification.

### **Discrimination against PSUs by NHAI**

SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I draw your attention to a news item, titled 'Private Sector Contracts for Highway Projects', that appeared in the *Statesman* dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2002. Shri B. C. Khanduri, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, has stated that contracts worth Rs.55,000 crores have been firmed up with the private sector, for them to take up part of the Centre's Rs.54,000 crore Highway Development Project. It may be seen that the contracts are not being given to the Central PSUs although the Central Government has extended the existing Purchase Preference Policy up to 2004. The National Highways Authority of India does not give any purchase preference to the public sector undertakings, in violation of the Purchase Preference Policy. The NHAI does not even include the clause pertaining to purchase preference in their tender notices. The public sector undertakings are being discriminated against in the National Highways Development Project. I request the Government to look into it and do the needful.

### **Stay Order by Supreme Court on implementation of national curriculum framework**

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa): Sir, the Supreme Court, on April 5 last, passed a historic order, directing the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Central Board of Secondary Education and the NCERT, not to implement the National Curriculum Framework of School Education, without previous consultation with the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE). The petitioners have accused the Government of deliberately not convening the CABE, nor a meeting of the State Education Ministers, despite the fact that Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, and the National Policy on Education of 1986, which is still in force, provides for coordination between the Centre and States on this subject. The petitioners have alleged that the Government is revising the syllabus for school education, to orient the same "towards promotion of the political and religious ideology which finds favour with some sections of the Government". Indeed, the changes being made in the National Curriculum are an attempt at repudiating the foundations of pluralism, a principle so integral to the task of nation building.