

(b) and (c). National Highways in Bihar are being generally kept in traffic worthy condition having regard to the guidelines and specifications issued by the Ministry from time to time.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The policy of the Union Government is to generally have the respective State Governments as their agents for the maintenance and development of the National Highways traversing the State.

[*Translation*]

Applications of Freedom Fighters from Bihar

5527. SHRI RAJ MANGAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of applications of freedom fighters from Bihar so far disposed of and those pending decision?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): All the applications received in this Ministry, with documentary evidence, have been processed and decisions taken have been communicated to the applicants/State Government.

[*English*]

Statehood to Delhi

5528. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to grant Statehood to Delhi;

(b) if so, the suggestions received from different political parties in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto;

and

(d) when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) The Committee on Re-organisation of Delhi Set-up submitted its Report in December, 1989 and it is under consideration.

(b) The views of CPI (M)-(Delhi State Committee) is that Delhi be granted Statehood, but the requirements of the Central Government be given special consideration, Like jurisdiction over NDMC area. The CPI (Delhi State Statehood, and at the most, a part of New Delhi area be Pradesh Janta Dal is that Delhi be granted Statehood, and the State Assembly may have 84 members.

(c) and (d). The matter is presently under consideration.

Indo-Australian Cooperation on Agriculture

5529. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of his recent visit to Australia;

(b) the areas of agricultural expertise in which guidance/cooperation is expected from Australia; and

(c) the likely developments before the next follow-up meeting between the two Governments?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) While visiting Australia from 8-11 February 1990 to attend Asia and Pacific Region's Cooperative Minister's Conference organised by the International Cooperative