

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRIM. RAJASEKARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). The State Government of Rajasthan have recently forwarded 7 projects on National Highways.

(c) According of approval to the projects would depend on their satisfying the technical standards and availability of funds.

[English]

FPI in Andhra Pradesh

60. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have provided financial assistance under plan development schemes to Food Processing Industries sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof during last three years; and

(c) the details of other incentives Government propose to give to the entrepreneurs for setting up of Food Processing Industries in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance provided in respect of proposals received from Andhra Pradesh during the last 3 years i.e. 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 in respect of projects in areas of fruits and vegetables and meat and poultry amounts to Rs.200.30 lakhs;

(c) Government has been taking various steps to promote food processing industries which inter-alia include declaration of most food processing industries as high priority, delicensing of most food processing industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale sector, promoting domestic/foreign/NRI investment, providing fiscal relief etc. in addition, Government also operates various developmental plan scheme for promotion of this sector.

Facilities offered by Saudi Arabia to Haj Pilgrims

61. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has assured India that it would provide better facilities for Indian pilgrims during the forthcoming Haj;

(b) if so, whether this assurance was given during the Health Minister's visit to that country during October, 1995;

(c) if so, the details of the facilities to be provided by that country;

(d) whether in the past a number of complaints were made by the Indian Haj pilgrims about the maltreatment meted out to them; and

(e) if so, the extent to which these problems were resolved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) to (c). The Minister of Health and Family Welfare had visited Saudi Arabia in October, 1995, and met the Saudi Ministers of Haj and Health. Various aspects of health arrangements made for pilgrims by the Government of Saudi Arabia were discussed and it was clarified that the Saudi policy is to continuously make efforts to improve the facilities for the pilgrims every year on the basis of the experience of the previous Haj.

(d) and (e). No significant problems were encountered during the last Haj. However, some Indian pilgrims had drawn attention to the difficulties faced by them, which were attended to. On the health side, Government had taken a number of steps to provide better services to the pilgrims during Haj-1995. The number of branch dispensaries in Makkah was increased from three to nine and there was a substantial increase in the number of doctors, paramedics, and other administrative staff. Due to these measures, health related and other needs of our pilgrims were attended to promptly.

Modernisation of FACT

62. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state;

(a) the profit/loss of FACT, Kerala during the last three years;

(b) the details of the modernisation schemes of FACT;

(c) when the new Ammonia Plant for FACT will be commissioned;