

ways and the funds allocated therefor during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the rate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The requirements per kilometre for maintenance of National Highways are worked out on the basis of norms evolved by a High Level Technical committee. These norms are inter-alia based on various factors such as length and width of the road surface, traffic intensity physical and climatic conditions etc. In addition, provisions for Flood Damage & Special Repairs are made. The actual allocations, however, depend upon the overall availability of resources. The funds allocated for maintenance of National Highways during 1989-90 & 1990-91 were:

Year	Allocation (Rs. in lakhs)
1989-90	14355
1990-91	15312

(b) and (c) The requirement of maintenance funds are worked out every year as per norms at the currently applicable rates of materials and labour and actual needs of repairs due to flood damages etc. However, actual allocations are made depending on the available resources.

[English]

Investment in Ethiopia

4124. SHRI PRAKASH PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ethiopia has invited India to invest in that country in small

and medium industries, particularly in the field of agro-industries, readymade garments, leather garments and construction works; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DUPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Tea at Competitive Price

4125. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Multinational Tea Companies have requested the Government that exporters should be allowed to import tea at competitive prices for blending into high value branded and packaged tea for export to hard currency markets; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Government have received such requests. However Government's policy is that import of tea for purposes of value-addition and firmly linked to export alone could be considered under the Advance Licensing Scheme. Import of tea for domestic consumption is not allowed.

Import of Books

4126. PROF. MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the scope of open General License to cover all categories of books for import;