

Widening of National Highway No.175939. SHRI V.S.VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to widen the National Highway No.17 in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Development of N.H.17 including widening to two lane is a continuous process and improvement works are undertaken in a phased manner keeping in view the traffic intensity, existing condition of the National Highway, inter-se priority on an All-India basis and funds available for the purpose. In the current Annual Plan 1991-92, there is a provision of Rs.3760.00 lakhs, for widening of N.H.17 including realignment, construction of bypasses and bridges etc.

Credit-Deposit Ratio of Banks in Rural Areas5940. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE to be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed for credit-deposit ratio of banks in the rural areas;

(b) the extent to which these norms have been implemented by banks during 1989-90 and 1990-91; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to push up the credit-deposit ratio in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The public sector banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to achieve a credit deposit ratio of at least 60% in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches separately. Against the above norm the credit: deposit ratio of all scheduled commercial banks in respect of their rural branches was 63.9% and 60.1% at the end of March, 1990 and March, 1991 respectively.

(c). Banks have been advised by RBI to ensure that wide regional disparities among various States in credit deployment are avoided and effective steps are taken to increase the flow of credit to all productive and identified viable proposals in different areas. The matter is also monitored by State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) State Governments and RBI on regular basis.

5941. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE to be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are rich deposits of granite stones suitable for export, in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the entrepreneurs to establish granite polishing units to earn more foreign exchange;

(d) the number of units which have applied for financial assistance from the banks/financial institutions; and

(e) the number of units which have been provided assistance as on May 31, 1991?

170 Mineral Export of Granite

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) Granite reserves in Andhra Pradesh are estimated at 3 million cu.m. (m³). The most important deposits occur in Chittoor, Hyderabad, Khamman and Warangal Districts.

(c) In order to promote export of cut and polished granite, entrepreneurs are being granted letters of permission under the 100% EDU Scheme to establish granite cutting and polishing units. Such Units are eligible for grant of Exim Scrips at 30% of the net foreign exchange earned. Exports of cut and polished granite are also eligible for Income Tax benefit under Section 80 HHC of I.Tax Act.

(d) and (e) Since the applications for financial assistance from banks/financial institutions are not required to be recommended/endorsed by the Central Government, information regarding number of units which have applied for financial assistance as 31.5.91 is not available.

Promotional Avenues of Civilian Security Officers in Defence Installations

5942. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether civilian security officers in defence installations appointed through U.P.S.C. do not have any promotional prospects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for their training as per latest security requirements for better prospects in their career?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). In 1984, the Government had declared the cadre of Civilian Security Officers as "dying out" and, consequently, no proposals for improvement of career Prospects of this cadre were taken up. However, in December, 1990, the decision declaring this cadre as "dying out" was reviewed and it has been decided to revive and restructure this cadre.

(c) Directions have been issued for providing in service training to civilian security officers in all aspects relevant to their jobs.

Maintenance of National Highway No.47 in Tamil Nadu

5943. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps taken by the union Government to maintain the Kanyakumari-Trivandrum section of National Highway No.47 particularly the portion lying in Tamil Nadu which has been severely affected by the recent monsoon rains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Kanyakumari-Trivandrum section of National Highway No. 47 in Tamil Nadu is being maintained in a traffic worthy condition. The pot-holes etc. developed during recent monsoon rains are being repaired by the Tamil Nadu Department of Highways.

Smuggling of Gold on Indo-Bangladesh Border

5944. SHRI. S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of gold has been on the increase on the Indo-Bangladesh border for the last several months;