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(h) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Improvement of Highways

1706. SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH :
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce new technology for the improvement of highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign experts have been invited to help in providing new technology; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Upgradation of technology for improvement of highways in the country is taking place constantly on a broad front and is a continuous process. As such it is not possible to give precise details;

(c) and (d). Services of international experts under Technical Assistance provided by agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc. are being availed of where necessary.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections to Panchayats

1707. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Panchayat headquarters in Rajasthan linked with telephone facility so far, and

(b) the amount spent for this purpose during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a). As on 30/11/1993, number of villages having panchayat headquarters in Rajasthan covered with telephone facility is 5965.

(b) The details are as under :-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount Spent</i>
1991-92	Rs. 16,08,75,000/-
1992-93	Rs. 22,63,75,000/-

Fruits and Vegetable Industry

1708. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from Non-Resident Indians for setting up of industries based on fruits and vegetables in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). As per available information, three applications received from NRIs for setting up Fruit and Vegetable based industries in the country have been approved. The details are as under :-

1. **Shri Ramnik Modi, U.K. (NRI)** : Letter of Permission on under 100% Export Oriented Undertakings' Scheme was granted on 28.1.1992 for setting up of a unit in the State of Gujarat for the manufacture of Pickles and Food Spices.

2. **Shri Padam k. Chhanna, USA (NRI)** Automatic permission for foreign collaboration as per the new Industries Policy, 1991 has been granted for setting up of a Food Processing Unit in the State of Andhra Pradesh, in April, 1992.

3. **Shri H.N. Solanki, U.K. (NRI)** : Letter of Permission under EPZ Scheme granted on 20.7.1992 for setting up of a 100% Export Oriented Unit in Cochin Export Promotion Zone, Cochin (Kerala) for the manufacture of Processed Vegetables.

English]

Aluminium Export by NALCO

1709. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) has stopped export of Aluminium plates and other material produced by it, through Paradip Port;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the present arrangement of exporting Aluminium plates and other products is more economical; and

(d) the reasons for not shipping these products through Paradip Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) produces Aluminium Ingots and Wire Rods and not produces Aluminium Plates. During last 3 years following exports were made through Paradeep:

1991 - 92	3,400 MT
1992 - 93	20,000 MT
1993 - 94 (to date)	300 MT

(b) and (d). Exports of Aluminium by NALCO from Paradeep have been temporarily suspended due to following reasons:

1. Wharfage, Warehousing, Port charges, consignment and forwarding charges etc. are high compared to Vizag/Calcutta.
2. Only limited number of ships call at Paradeep Port which does not enable adherence to shipment schedules.
3. Lack of container handling facility