

of compulsory licensing. No Industrial Licence is, therefore, required from the Central Government to set up Iron and Steel Plants, except for certain locational restrictions. The Iron & Steel industry has also been included in the list of high priority industries which are eligible for automatic approval for foreign equity investment upto 51% and also for foreign technology agreement subject to certain standard conditions, failing which Government approval is required. So far, one unit viz. M/s. Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd. had applied for approval for grant of foreign technology agreements for setting up an integrated steel plant at Toranagallu, District Belary in Karnataka to manufacture 1.25 million tpa Hot Rolled Steel Plot products, which have since been approved by the Government. The State Government have informed that the project implementation has already commenced at the site.

[Translation]

Assistance to Maharashtra for Construction of Houses

5610. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR :
SHRI ANNA JOSHI :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for providing assistance for Construction of Houses for middle and lower income people;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this context and the status of the proposal as on date;

(c) the Central assistance so far sanctioned/provided to State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON):(a) Union Government do not provide financial assistance directly to the State Governments for urban housing. Further, no urban housing scheme seeking assistance has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Reconstruction of National Highways in West Bengal

5611. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Highways in West Bengal;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the re-construction of National Highways during 1993-94 and 1994-95 in the State; and

(c) other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Total length of National Highways in West Bengal is 1676.026 kms.

(b) and (c). Amount allocated yearwise for Maintenance and Repairs and Original works are as per details below:

Year	Maintenance & Repairs (Rs. in lakhs)	Original works (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	Rs.1760.40	Rs. 3500.00
1994-95	Rs.1744.02	Rs. 3987.00

[English]

US Role as Mediator

5612. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :
SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US has made any offer to play mediator's role in resolving Kashmir issue during the recent visit of Pak Prime Minister to the US;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Pakistan Prime Minister, during her recent visit to the US, invited American or other international mediatory efforts on Kashmir. The US Government reiterated its known position that the US would be willing to assist, but only if both India and Pakistan sought it. President Clinton and other US officials clarified that India did not want this and, therefore, there was little that the US could do.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Bridges in U.P.

5613. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :
DR. SAKSHIJI :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges on National Highways in Uttar Pradesh repaired/being repaired during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent thereon, during the above period;

(c) the number of bridges constructed and repaired in the State during 1994-95 and 1995-96 and the length of National Highways expanded; and

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). An amount of Rs. 199.50 lakhs has been spent on repairs of 14 Nos. of bridges on National Highways in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

(c) and (d). 3 bridges were repaired and one bridge was constructed during this period at an estimated expenditure of Rs.426.94 lakhs. No addition to the National Highway network has been made during this period.

[English]

Eviction of Public Premises

5614. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain guidelines have been issued to various Ministries while initiating action under the Public Premises Act, 1971;

(b) if so, whether the said guidelines are also applicable to other property owned and controlled by the Central Government as in the case of public sector undertakings;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c). Guidelines have been issued to all administrative Ministries Departments asking them to issue suitable directions to the Public Sector undertakings under their control so as to prevent arbitrary use of the provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 to evict genuine tenants and to limit the use of the summary powers primarily to evict unauthorised occupants and retired employees of the enterprises. These guidelines apply to Central Government properties as well. An extract of the guidelines is enclosed as Statement.

(d) Question does not arise.

STATEMENT

*Extracted Version of Guidelines for
Public Premises Act*

(i) The Provisions of the P.P. Act should be used primarily to evict totally illegal occupants of the premises of public authorities or unauthorised

sublettees, or employees who have ceased to be in their service and thus ineligible for occupation of the premises. The proceedings should be initiated in accordance with the provisions of the Act only in cases where the occupation becomes unauthorised on genuine grounds of law.

(ii) The provisions of the Act should not be resorted to either with a commercial motives or to secure vacant possession of the premises in order to accommodate their own employees, where the premises were in occupation of the original tenants to whom the premises were let either by the public authorities or the persons from whom the premises were acquired.

(iii) A person in lawful occupation of any premises should not be treated or declared to be an unauthorised occupant merely on service of notice of termination of tenancy, nor should any contractual agreement be voided up by taking advantage of the provisions of the Act. At the same time, it will be open to the public authority to secure periodic revision of rent in terms of the provisions of the Rent Control Act in each State, or to move under genuine grounds under the Rent Control Act for resuming possession. In other words, the public authorities would have rights similar to private landlords under the Rent Control Act in dealing with genuine legal tenants;

(iv) It is necessary to give no room for allegations that evictions were selectively resorted to for the purpose of securing an unwarranted increase in rent, or that a change in tenancy was permitted in order to benefit particular individual of institutions in order to avoid such imputations or abuses of discretionary powers. The release of premises or change of tenancy should be decided at the level of Board of Directors of the Public Undertaking.

(v) All the Public Undertakings should immediately review all pending cases before the Estate Officer of Courts with reference to these guidelines, and withdraw evictions proceedings against genuine tenants on grounds otherwise than as provided under these guidelines. The Provisions under the P.P. Act should be used henceforth only in accordance with these guidelines.

[Translation]

New Visa Procedure of US

5615. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) :
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by Indian businessmen in