

sentations have been received from time to time for establishing a Bench of Karnataka High Court at Hubli-Dharwar. No proposal, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court, has been received from the Government of Karnataka in this regard. As such, no decision can be taken by the Central Government in the matter.

Export of Cotton

1519. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to export cotton.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Cotton Advisory Board was consulted before taking the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). There is a decision to release about 5.00 lakh bales of cotton for export at the commencement of every cotton year, subject to adjustments being made after the detailed crop estimates are available, with the objective of maintaining India's presence in the International Market as a stable supplier. In pursuance of this decision, Government has released 1.00 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi Cotton for export during 1991-92 cotton season. It has also been decided to place an export quota of 4.00 lakh bales of cotton during the 1991-92 cotton season at the disposal of Cotton Corporation of India to be operated by it from time to time keeping in view the prevailing prices. It has not been considered necessary to consult the Cotton Advisory Board for this quantity of quota released since it is based on the existing decisions.

Excise Frauds in A.P

1520. SHRI GANGADHARA SANI PALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of excise frauds detected in Anantapur and Rayalseema in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to eliminate such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) During the financial years 1989-90 and 1990-91, 56 cases involving evasion of Central Excise duty of Rs.80.23 lacs were made out in Anantapur and Rayalseema in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) In all these 56 cases, investigations have been completed. Also, in 55 cases Show Cause Notices for recovery of duty/imposition of penalty have been issued.

(c) Anti-evasion machinery has been alerted, Road petrolling and other preventive checks have been intensified.

Newsitem "RBI to Probe BCCI Issue"

1521. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "RBI to probe BCCI Issue" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated September 15, 1991;

(b) if so, whether all matters including security aspect regarding the BCCI have

since been looked into by the RBI and the security agencies,

(c) if so, the results thereof, and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India and the security agencies are seized of the issues pertaining to BCCI affairs. RBI has ordered a special audit of the accounts of the Bombay branch of BCCI and enquiries by the securities agencies are in progress.

Schemes for Development of national Highways In Kerala

1522. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved some schemes for development of National Highways in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the total length of the roads likely to be developed under these schemes and the amount earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Development and improvement of National Highways is a continuing process and works are undertaken keeping in view the traffic intensity, existing condition of National Highways, inter-se priority and availability of funds. During the 7th Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 1990-91 estimates amounting to Rs.54.96 crores and Rs.18.78 crores respectively were approved for the Development of National Highways in Kerala. For the

current year (1991-92), further schemes for the development of National Highways are in the Annual Programme at a cost of Rs.199.90 crores. In general, these various development schemes relate to the whole network of National Highways in Kerala (length about 940 km) for their phased improvement as per actual needs.

Share Taxi Service in Delhi

1523. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced share taxi service in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the extent to which it has been successful in easing the rush of passengers in D.T.C. buses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme is open to any operator who is either holding DLT taxi permit or intends to hold one. The operator will have to register himself for a particular route and obtain the respective fare-chart of the route. This service will be operative from 8 to 11 A.M. and from 4 P.M. to 8 P.M. During the rest of the time operators will be free to operate his taxi as metered taxi.

(c) The scheme was introduced on an experimental basis and its basic aim was to wean away people who were using personalised vehicles.

Export Promotion efforts at State level

1524. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: