

Madhya Pradesh are engaged in having a detailed feasibility study assisted by the IDA (an affiliate of the World Bank) for the industrial development of Bastar District based on wood processing industries. Bastar District has also been selected as industrially backward and as such is eligible for concessional finance from term-ending financial institutions under the Backward Area Development Schemes. The location of central industrial projects is based on techno-economic considerations.

Changes in the pattern of press ownership

2084 S G MURUGAIYAN
SHRI C K CHANDRAPPAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to restructure the present pattern of press ownership to make it conducive to freedom of the press and

(b) if so the details and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. V. ADVANI) (a) and (b) It is proposed to entrust this problem for study by the Second Press Commission which is expected to be set up shortly

Asian Highway Project

2085 SHRI K LAKKAPPA Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) details of the Asian Highway project,

(b) what is the length of the component of the project in India and its estimated cost

(c) whether the Indian component has been completed, and

(d) if not, by what date it is scheduled to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) (a) to (d) The Asian Highway project is a Scheme formulated by the UN Economic & Social Commission for the Asian and Pacific Region for the development of a network of international highways by the countries concerned from their own resources connecting the countries of the region with each other. This Scheme covers at present 64 363 Kms of roads of which 15689 kilometres fall within India. Almost the entire length of the Asian Highway routes in India are part of National Highways or in certain cases some State roads. These are all existing roads except for two small missing links—one of about 5 kms near Tanakpur (UP) on the Indo-Nepal border on the western side and the other of about 3 kilometres near Gaighata on the Indo-Nepal border on the eastern side in West Bengal. While the missing link near Gaighata has already been taken up for construction the one near Tanakpur is tied up with the route in Nepal which is yet to be taken up by the Government of Nepal. Other routes from India are however, available for joining the Asian Highway network in Nepal.

आजिनेस इन्वीपमेन्ट फॅक्टरी, कानपुर में खोल और खिलाड़ियों पर व्यय की गई राशि

2086 श्री हर्षोबिन्धु वर्मा : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) गत वर्ष आर्जिनेस इन्वीपमेन्ट फॅक्टरी कानपुर में खोल और खिलाड़ियों पर कुल कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गई,

(ख) क्या सरकार इतना अधिक व्यय करने की अनुमति देती है और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो सरकार का विचार इस प्रकार अपव्यय करने वाले अधिकारी के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही करने का है ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (प्रो. शेर सिंह) (क) वर्ष 1977 के दौरान 14 437 30 रुपए (चौदह हजार चार