

(b) whether Union Government in consultation with State Governments make the bad roads fit for vehicular traffic; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the defective roads and bridges are causing road accidents and traffic obstruction?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATIONS (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (c). The Honourable Member has not referred to any specific stretch or stretches where the condition of the National Highways has been found unsatisfactory or the defective condition of the roads and bridges has led to road accidents and traffic obstruction. However, the condition of National Highways in general is reasonably satisfactory and full attention is being paid to their improvement, development and maintenance subject to the availability of funds. In case of road accidents where the cause is due to defective/deficient roads and bridges on the National Highway System, prompt action is always taken to remove the same. Road accidents can, however, be due to certain other factors, apart from deficiencies like driver behaviour and vehicles' condition.

(b) The Government of India make available the necessary funds for the improvement, development and maintenance of National Highway to the State Governments to execute the workers as their agents and as such every effort is made to keep the National Highways in traffic-worthy condition.

Workers Laid-off State-wise

597. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of workers laid-off, State-wise and Year-wise, from 1976-77 to 1979-80?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): Requisite information is being

collected from the State Government/ Union Territory Administrations and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Changes made in Administrative set up of India's Diplomatic Missions

598. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what are the changes made in the administrative set up of India's diplomatic missions abroad, including changes in the set up of embassies (Including Ambassadors) between January and May, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): During the period January to May 1980 the Government of India opened a diplomatic Mission in Salisbury (Zimbabwe).

The number of transfers which took place between January and May 1980 are:

Sl. No.	Designations	No of transfers
1	Head of Missions	10
2	Ministers	..
3	Counsellors	7
4	First Secretaries	10
5	Second Secretaries	9
6	Third Secretaries	2
7	Attaches	19

With reference to the Heads of Missions who assumed charge in this period, the details are given in the attached statement. These envoys (with the exception of Permanent Representative to the U.N. in Geneva and Ambassador to Pakistan) were selected before January 1980.