

(c) to (f) The Government of Madhya Pradesh had earlier submitted proposals for diversion of approximately 2.73 lakh hectares of forest land for regularisation of encroachments in different districts of the State vide letter dated 23.5.1989. Formal approval in respect of approximately 1.03 lakh hectares of forest land out of the above has already been accorded by the Ministry in July 1990. Subsequently, the State Government has submitted proposals for regularisation of encroachments over approximately 1.81 lakh hectares of additional forest area vide letter dated 5th December, 1995. In respect of this proposal, the State Government has been asked to furnish a status report on compliance of the conditions stipulated while approving earlier proposal for regularisation of encroachments in July 1990. This issue has been taken up at the level of Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh recently. In the absence of such details from the State Government it could not be possible for the Ministry to take any final decision on this proposal.

Declaration of Roads as National Highways in M.P.

2870. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of those roads in Madhya Pradesh which were recommended to be declared as National Highways by the National Transport Committee in 1984 and the names of the highways on which work has already been started; and

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed for remaining highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) The remaining proposals would be considered for declaration as National Highways in the subsequent plans subject to availability of adequate funds.

Statement

Routes proposed by National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC) for declaration as National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

S. No.	Route	Approx. Length (KM) in M.P.	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Gwallor-Jhansi-Khajuraho-Rewa	285	Yet to be declared
2.	Nagpur-Obaidullaganj	295	Since declared as a NH
3.	Jabalpur-Shahadol-Ambikapur-Gumbra	512	Yet to be declared
4.	Raipur-Varanasi	425	Yet to be declared

1	2	3	4
5.	Ahmedabad-Indore-Dewas-Bhopal	299	Indore-Ahmedabad declared. Dewas Bhopal is yet to be declared as a NH.
6.	Nizamabad-Jagdalpur	210	Since declared as a NH
7.	Rajamundry-Jagdalpur	180	Yet to be declared
8.	Behrampur-Raipur	90	Yet to be declared
9.	Jaipur-Kota-Baiora	66	Since declared as a NH
		2362	

[English]

Multi Access Rural Radio Solar System

2871. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost all the MARR solar system of telephones installed in the villages under TDM Balasore (Orissa) are out of order;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the total number of village public telephones installed/working under the TDM, Balasore; and

(d) the total amounts incurred by the government of such installations during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) No. Sir. As on 30.6.98 out of 880 MARR PTs 125 are faulty.

(b) Out of 125, majority are faulty because of hardware faults in base station units. The faulty BSUs are being repaired by the manufacturers under Annual Maintenance Contract.

(c)	Installed	Working
MARR PTs	880	755
O/H PTs	705	582
	1585	1337

(d) Total amount incurred by the Government for such installation for last three years is Rs. 6,73,60,400/-.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Girls Schools

2872. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the girls schools on priority basis in the country keeping in view the need of making girls more educated; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The upgradation of Schools for girls is undertaken by State Governments and Union Territories according to their norms. In the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas run by Central Government due importance is given to girls keeping in view priorities underlined by the National Policy on Education. There are also a number of other schemes such as those for Non-Formal Education, District Primary Education Programme, Mahila Samakhya which have an edge for the education of girls. In the budget proposals for 1998-99, Rs. 100 crores has been earmarked for the education of girls.

[English]

Improvement in Inland Water Transport System

2873. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have directed the concerned Ministries and the Departments to utilise three National Waterways for the movement of Government goods to boost the instability of the Inland waterways system;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also decided to transport at least 5% of various Departments and PSUs to 2000 AD through waterways;

(c) whether the Prime Minister's office has asked various Ministries and Departments to make assessment of the annual movement requirements of their goods for the next two years;

(d) if so, whether the confederation of Indian Industries, CII had also urged the Government to improve the Inland Water Transport system; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Ministries of Railways, Steel, Heavy Industries, Fertilizers and Coal have formed their respective Working Groups to assess the quantum of cargo that can be moved by IWT.

Further, enunciation of IWT Policy including incentives for private sector involvement in IWT infrastructure and operation of vessels is also under process.

Clearance to Power Projects

2874. Dr. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA:

SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of power projects are pending with the Government for the environment clearance;

(b) if so, the details of these projects, State-wise and the time from which these projects are pending;

(c) whether any meetings of the Environment Committees were held during 1997 and current year for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to expedite clearance to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):

(a) Five Hydro-Electric and Twelve Thermal Power Projects are awaiting environmental clearance as on 30th June, 1998.

(b) A Statement is attached;

(d) to (e) Six meetings of the Expert Committee for River Valley and Hydro-Electric Projects were held during 1997 and one during 1998. Similarly, eight meetings of the Expert Committee for Thermal Power Projects were held during 1997 and one during 1998.

(f) Final decision is usually taken within 90 days of the receipt of complete information from Project Authorities. Regular meetings of the Expert Committees are held for ensuring expeditious decisions.