

**Development/Modernisation of National Highways**

1308. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI ABHAY SINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Government to develop National Highways and to modernise the highway system;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the names of the main projects completed during the year 1997-98, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the projects to be completed in the year 1998-99 alongwith the latest position thereof?

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

(b) A Working Group was constituted to work out the requirement of National Highways for the 9th Plan which had finalised a plan and assessed the requirement of funds at Rs. 23,000 crores.

(c) Projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores completed in the year 1997-98 are as follows :-

S.No.	State	Name of the Project
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4 laning of Arakapalli-Vishakapatnam Sectio of NH-5.
2.	Assam	Jogighoppa Bridge across river Brahmaputra
3.	Haryana border	4 laning of Ballabgarh-U.P./Haryana section of NH-2
4.	Rajasthan	4 laning of Kotputli-Achral Section of NH-8
5.	Uttar Pradesh	4 laning of U.P./Haryana border to Mathura of NH-2.

(d) Projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores likely to be completed in the year 1998-99 are :

1.	Karnataka	4 laning of Bangalore-Hosur Section of NH-7
2.	Kerala	4 laning of Always-Sherthalai Section of NH-47

[English]

**Import of Small Ships and Floating Crafts**

1309. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to continue with quantitative restrictions on the import of small ships and floating crafts for at least four years to protect the domestic ship building industry;

(b) whether the Government will have to completely deregulate the import of vessels by March 31, 2001 as per the World Trade Organisation norms;

(c) whether this decision will improve the order book position of domestic shipyards and give them adequate time to improve their facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee was constituted to consider the question of continuing restrictions on import of small ships and floating crafts, etc. The Committee had recommended the continuation of such restrictions till 2001.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) and (d) The decision to continue the restrictions on import of small ships and floating crafts will improve the order book position. The Committee as stated above had observed that the Indian Shipyards who are capable of building small ships and floating crafts at competitive rates desired that Quantitative restriction on imports be continued till the year 2001 by which time they will be able to compete with foreign shipyards competitively.

**Vacancies of Judges in High Courts/ Supreme Court**

1310. SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

RAO INDERJIT SINGH :

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :

PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRI A.C. JOS :

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of vacancies of Judges in

various High Courts, court-wise and in Supreme Court of India;

(b) whether the Government propose to fill up these vacancies in view of the recent judgement of the Supreme Court on the appointment of Judges;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether an elaborate procedure for appointment of judges has been evolved and laid down;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which vacancies of judges are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (f) As on 1.12.1998, against the sanctioned strength of 587 Judges/Additional Judges of High Courts, 433 Judges/Additional Judges were in position, leaving 154 vacancies of Judges/Additional Judges to be filled up. As on 1.12.1998, against the sanctioned strength of 26 Judges, 18 Judges were in position in the Supreme Court of India, leaving 8 vacancies of Judges to be filled up. The details of vacancies are attached as statement.

The procedure for appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts involves consultations among several constitutional authorities.

Proposal for appointment of Judges in Supreme Court is initiated by Chief Justice of India whereas proposal for appointment of a Judge in a High Court has to be initiated by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

#### Statement

S.No.	High Court	Vacancies of Judges as on 1.12.1998
1	2	3
1.	High Court	
1.	Allahabad	27
2.	Andhra Pradesh	13
3.	Bombay	13
4.	Calcutta	17
5.	Delhi	6
6.	Gauhati	3
7.	Gujarat	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3

1	2	3
10.	Karnataka	6
11.	Kerala	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8
13.	Madras	7
14.	Orissa	3
15.	Patna	8
16.	Punjab & Haryana	15
17.	Rajasthan	10
18.	Sikkim	2
Total		154
II. Supreme Court		8

#### Forest Wasteland for Captive Plantation

1311. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government offered forest wastelands to the industry for the purpose of captive plantation and afforestation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether environmental groups are opposing the proposal of the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Literacy Schemes

1312. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of schemes going on at present to achieve the constitutional obligation of compulsory and free primary education;

(b) the details of grants provided during the last five years under various schemes, state-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether any review has been undertaken of these schemes in regard to bringing down the illiteracy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps taken in this regard?