

(c) and (d). Government is observing 1991 as "Tourism Year". During this year number of fairs and festivals are being promoted. Most of the fairs and festivals have rural orientation and will focus upon Indian heritage and culture.

#### **Private Sector Involvement In Development of National Highways**

\*109. SHRI B. N. REDDY:  
SHRI PRAKASH KOKO  
BRAHMBHATT:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a final decision with regard to participation of private sector in the field of construction and improvement of National Highways in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Meeting of Indo-China Joint Working Group on Border Issue**

\*110. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed meeting of the Indo-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question to be held in 1990 has since been held; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The second session of

the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question and Annual Consultations at Foreign Office level took place in New Delhi on August 30-31, 1990.

During the discussions, the two sides significantly enhanced their understanding of each other's approaches to the solution of the boundary question. The effort was to adopt a practical and realistic approach and to look to the future. Hope was expressed by both sides that, by working in a sincere and forward-looking manner, they would be able to establish a basis for the solution of the boundary question, as well as for maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

The two sides agreed to a mechanism whereby their military personnel would meet from time to time at an appropriate level with a view to maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

Ways and means of further improving bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed, and views exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual concern. The growing interaction between the two countries in various fields was noted with satisfaction by both sides. The determination to maintain and further strengthen the momentum of bilateral relations was reiterated.

#### **Telephone Connections in Maharashtra**

\*111. SHRI HARI BHAI SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections released since 1 January, 1990, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which telephone connections are likely to be provided to all the persons on the waiting list?