

out the country which is financed from GSI's budget. During 1987-88 Field Season GSI is likely to spend Rupees 335 lakhs for different gold investigations in the country.

Increase in Road Accidents

***35. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :**
SHRI SRI HARI RAO :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether road accidents in the country are on the increase in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh initiatives taken during the last six months to tackle this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). While the absolute numbers have been increasing, the number of road accidents and fatalities per 1000 vehicles has shown a progressive decline over the years.

(c) As a part of road-safety measures, Road Safety Week was observed during 6-12 June 1988 throughout the country to create public awareness about road safety aspects. Stricter provisions have been made in respect of grant of driving licences, vehicle inspection and punishment for violations of traffic regulations, in the Motor Vehicles Bill, 1988, introduced in Lok Sabha on 13-5-1988.

Wasteland Development for Profitable Forestry

***36. SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH :**
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) where there are any proposals or schemes to convert wastelands in the country into profitable forestry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the allocation made for this propose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :

(a) The emphasis in the programmes undertaken on wastelands is not on profitability but on ecological restoration and on social forestry.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Changes in Steel Policy

***37. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand for steel by 2000 AD has been estimated at 26 million tonnes as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' of June 16, 1988;

(b) if so, the policy changes envisaged to ensure availability of the required quantity of steel by then;

(c) whether per tonne cost of steel is increasing due to huge project costs for integrated steel plants; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to ensure that Indian steel is produced at the same or nearly same cost as in other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No policy changes are envisaged in order to meet the demand of steel by 2000 AD. Indigenous production will be increased to meet demand by modernisation and expansion of existing steel plants, and establishment of additional steel making capacity in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Scheme to Encourage Setting up of Food Industries under Cottage Industries

***38. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :**
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is great possibility

of identifying new techniques and new industries in the field of food processing cottage industries;

(b) if so, the efforts made in that direction and the policy in regard to indentifying such industries;

(c) whether any scheme has been prepared to encourage setting up of food industries under cottage industries in rural areas;

(d) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which it will be prepared and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been actively promoting the development of food processing industries as cottage industries in the rural areas such as processing of cereals and pulses, extraction of oil from oil-seeds, manufacture of gur, khandsari, fruit processing and preservation. The KVIC Act has now been amended to cover any type of industries located in rural areas having a population of less than 10,000 with per capita fixed investment upto Rs. 15,000. After the amendment of the KVIC Act, the Commission has drawn up a phased programme for promotion of new industries in addition to the existing scheduled industries. During 1988-89, 34 new industries including agro-based and food industries included within the purview of KVIC have been identified for which model schemes and pattern of financial assistance are being framed. With this, rural industries including food processing industries, covered within the purview of KVIC are expected to receive an impetus.

Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant

***39. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in the cost of modernisation programme of Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tenders on global basis have been floated for implementation of the project; and

(d) if so, when the total value of such tenders and the last dates were fixed for the submission of tenders ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b). The sanctioned estimates for the modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant are Rs. 1357 crores based on III Quarter 1986 prices. The final estimates based on present prices will be known only after the tenders have been evaluated.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. For six packages of work, tenders have been floated on global basis. Tenderers in respect of five packages were asked on July 9, 1988 to submit their final bids by 25th July, 1988. For the sixth package, no complete offers have been received. The total value of these packages will be known only after the finalisation of tenders.

Funds for Maintenance of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

***40. SHRI V. TULSIRAM :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has approached the Union Government to provide necessary funds for proper maintenance of the National Highways passing through that state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which necessary funds will be made available to the State Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). The Government of Andhra Pradesh has projected a requirement of Rs. 2148.59 lakhs for expenditure on the maintenance and repairs of National Highways in the State during 1988-89 under the following sub-heads :