

- (xi) Financial assistance is provided from Raksha Mantri's Discretionary fund to old and infirm ex-Servicemen and their widows in indigent circumstances.
- (xii) 238 Sainik Bhawans/Rest Houses spread all over the country have been established for ex-Servicemen.

2. In addition, various State Governments are also providing a number of facilities/concession to ex-Servicemen.

[English]

#### Bye-Pass on N.H. No.31

1361. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of work completed till date in respect of construction of Falataka to Pundibari Bye-pass road on National Highway No. 31 and bridge on river Torsha; and

(b) the time by which the remaining work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The progress of Falakata-Pundibari Bypass Road on National Highway No.31 and bridge on river Torsha as on 31.3.96 is as follows :-

|               |       |     |
|---------------|-------|-----|
| Bypass Road   | ..... | 40% |
| Torsha Bridge | ..... | 45% |

The target date of completion is March, 1998.

#### Kendriya Vidyalayas in Kerala

1362. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :  
SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for setting up of new Kendriya Vidyalayas in Kerala during 1996-97 academic year;

(b) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas to be sanctioned during 1996-97;

(c) the places identified for setting up of such Kendriya Vidyalayas; and

(d) the time schedule if any, for completion of the job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). No. Kendriya Vidyalaya has been sanctioned during 1996-97 in Kerala.

#### ASI Museum

1363. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is not a single site museum of ASI in the North & Eastern States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any indepth survey/excavations were under-taken at places like Pragjyotishpur (Guwahati) and Sibsagar in the recent past;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to do so; and

(e) the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is no site museum of ASI in the North-Eastern States.

(b) ASI establishes site museums where large scale excavations are conducted and good amount of antiquities are found. These relics are preserved alongwith the excavated remains near the site.

(c) The Department of Archaeology, Government of Assam, have conducted excavation at Ambari in Guwahati in recent past. The excavations have revealed ancient settlements having structures and historical antiquities. In Sibsagar explorations have been conducted by the State Department of Archaeology in the recent past.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Allocation for Roads

1364. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that allocation of funds for road network in the country has been on decline;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the Eight Five Year Plan;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance allocation for road network in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). The Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. The roads, other than National Highways, fall within the jurisdiction of respective State Governments. As regards National Highways, the allocation of funds for development as a

percentage of total plan outlay is on decline from 1.4% in the First Plan to 0.6% in the 8th Plan.

(c) and (d). Efforts are being made for obtaining enhanced allocation of funds for National Highways. However, it depends on the availability of resources at the National level.

#### Import of Medical Equipment

1365. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :  
SHRI PINAKI MISRA :  
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :  
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has directed the Director General Health Services (DGHS) to investigate into the import of medical equipment amounting to Rs.5000 crore by various hospitals by availing illegally and unauthorisedly duty free imports; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings and the persons apprehended in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). As per the order of the Delhi High Court, an enquiry into the issue of Custom Duty Exemption Certificates in certain cases is being conducted by the Chief Vigilance Officer of this Ministry. The matter is subjudice.

#### Child Mortality Rate

1366. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the child mortality rate in the country is very high;

(b) the main factors responsible therefor;

(c) the state-wise position during last three years; and

(d) the specific steps proposed to be taken to reduce and then to stop the child mortality rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). As per the Registrar General of India the estimated death rate for children in 1993 was 23.7 per 1000 children in the age group 0-4 years. Prematurity, acute respiratory infection, diarrhoeal diseases and vaccine preventable diseases are among the major causes of death in children. Illiteracy, poverty and inadequate infrastructure development and access to health services are some of the factors which contribute to child mortality.

(c) The estimated child (0-4 years) mortality rate for 1991, 1992 and 1993 for major States are given in the attached statement.

(d) Under the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme immunization, Prophylaxis against vitamin A deficiency, appropriate management of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections and essential newborn care are being provided to prevent morbidity and mortality in children.

#### STATEMENT

*Child mortality (Age-Specific death rate for the age-group 0-4 years) major States, 1991-93*

|                | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 |
|----------------|------|------|------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 21.3 | 20.0 | 17.1 |
| Assam          | 32.4 | 30.5 | 36.1 |
| Bihar          | 22.0 | 26.8 | 25.3 |
| Gujarat        | 23.3 | 23.7 | 20.7 |
| Haryana        | 23.0 | 22.8 | 20.3 |
| Karnataka      | 23.6 | 21.7 | 20.0 |
| Kerala         | 4.3  | 3.9  | 3.4  |
| Madhya Pradesh | 44.5 | 38.5 | 36.9 |
| Maharashtra    | 16.3 | 15.9 | 14.1 |
| Orissa         | 39.0 | 33.4 | 33.7 |
| Punjab         | 17.0 | 17.4 | 16.1 |
| Rajasthan      | 30.9 | 33.6 | 26.2 |
| Tamil Nadu     | 16.1 | 15.3 | 13.6 |
| Uttar Pradesh  | 35.6 | 37.8 | 32.9 |
| West Bengal    | 20.6 | 18.4 | 17.0 |

Source : Sample Registration System

[Translation]

#### Procurement of Uniforms and Blankets

1367. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether uniforms, blankets etc. were procured for soldiers from March 1, 1996 to date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount spent thereon during the above period;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints against their inferior quality;

(e) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regards?