

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (f). The procurement of uniform and blankets for the soldiers of Indian Army is made on continuous basis throughout the year. The details of the procurement of uniform and blanket made from 1.3.96 to 30.6.96 from Addl. Director General (ordance Factories) and Handloom Sector (ACASH) and Trade is as under :-

S.No.	Item	Quantity (Nos.)	Amount (Rs.)
1.	Shirt Plain Weave Polyester Cotton	90,506	2,12,68,910
2.	Trouser Plain Weave Polyester Cotton	1,04,745	3,089,775
3.	Blanket	1,94,423	5,76,62,475
4.	Boot Ankle DVS	2,38,454	10,37,27,490
5.	Socks Men OG	6,84,996	3,76,23,620

The defect reports during last three years from the user units in respect of some of the items given above were received and were investigated by Director General Quality Assurance. The Defects in the uniform were in the nature of colour fading, colour not matching. As far as Boots are concerned, the defects was in the nature of separation of sole. Based on the findings of the defect Report investigations, Army authorities have advised inspection staff to keep strict watch on quality and to advise Ordance Equipment Factory, Kanpur, to improve quality standards.

[English]

Super National Highways

1368. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited bids to construct Super National Highways in the country under public-private joint venture programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof with State-wise break-up; and

(c) the total investment required for the purpose and sources of funds thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir. However, National Highways Authority of India and invited global tenders from private sector for carrying out the feasibility studies

for the proposed Super National Highways. In response, 22 bidders, Indian as well as Foreign, submitted their proposals.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Women Development Corporation

1369. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

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

(a) whether Women Development Corporation has since been set up in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the names of districts where it has been set up; and

(c) the details of work undertaken by the Corporation, till date?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Gujrat Women Economic Development Corporation Limited is working in the entire state of Gujarat.

(c) The Corporation has taken up the following schemes for the empowerment and economic development of women :

- (i) Skill training schemes for women in various trades;
- (ii) Credit scheme for women through nationalised banks for starting income generating activities;
- (iii) Margin money assistance to women's industrial cooperatives;
- (iv) Assured marketing facility for women's co-operative societies;
- (v) Awareness generation schemes; and
- (vi) marketing facilities for women entrepreneurs/ women co-operatives etc. by organising exhibition-cum-sale at different places in the country.

[English]

Nuclear Programme

1370. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to Indian Express dated April 14, 1996 under the caption "US Report says India willing to go-slow on Nuclear Programme";