

(b) The estimated number of Rhinos in the park before flood as per 1995 census was 1250. As per the 1993 census, there were about 5483 animals in Kaziranga.

(c) An amount of Rs. 58.05 lakhs has been sanctioned for the rescue operations and details of utilisation of the amount have not been received from the State Government.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) For protection against poaching in the park, shoot at sight orders have been issued, paramilitary forces have been deployed and help of army is being taken for restoration work.

[Translation]

#### Fake Marksheets

182. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI  
CHAUDHARI:  
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :  
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

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

(a) whether fake marksheets are being issued on a large scale in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether any persons involved in this racket have been arrested during the last one year;

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Proposal for Cross Country Highway Project

183. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :  
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :  
SHRI T.R. BAALU :  
SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to build

cross country highway project linking Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silcher to Saurashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of States through which this cross country road is likely to pass;

(d) the total expenditure involved in this project and time fixed for its completion;

(e) whether any private participation has been worked out in this project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (f) The Honourable Prime Minister has announced a programme to widen national highways linking Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silcher to Saurashtra. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has been constituted to decide the routes and technical parameters thereof. The programme is at conceptual stage and hence no further details can be given at this stage.

#### Free and Compulsory Education

184. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :  
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :  
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :  
SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI  
CHIKHALIA :  
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :  
SHRI M. BAGA REDDY :  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :  
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government have made a fresh assessment of the constitutional obligation to provide free and compulsory education upto the age of 14;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether difficulties are expected to be experienced in the implementation of this obligation; and

(d) if so, the fresh strategy being contemplated by the Government to meet this objective?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The Conference of State Education Ministers

held in New Delhi on 22-23 October, 1998 discussed, inter-alia, the status of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) in different States and UTs. It was noted that despite concerted efforts, the Constitutional obligation to provide free and compulsory education upto the age of 14 years remains substantially unfulfilled.

(c) Though Elementary Education is tuition free, many households are unable to afford the cost of schooling. Inadequate school infrastructure, shortage of teachers, lack of sufficient community participation and decentralisation, prevailing levels of illiteracy, especially among women, social backwardness, cultural barriers, non-availability of required finances pose difficulties in fulfillment of the Constitutional obligation.

(d) The State Education Ministers Conference endorsed the proposal for establishment of a Mission as an instrument for achieving universal elementary education in a time-bound framework.

#### Computer Education in Schools

185. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the States where the Computer training and education is being imparted to the School children in Government/Government aided schools;

(b) whether it would be extended to all the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) The Department of Education, under its 'Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools' (CLASS) provides 100% Central assistance to States and Union Territories for purchase of computer hardware and for implementing the Computer Literacy Project in Government/Government aided Secondary and Senior Secondary schools. Under this Scheme hands on experience is provided to the students studying in Government schools. All States and Union Territories have been sanctioned financial assistance under this scheme. A Statement indicating the coverage of Schools in various States and Union Territories is enclosed.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Statement

#### State-wise position of schools covered under the scheme of Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS)

S.No.	Name of States/UTs	No. of Schools covered under the CLASS Scheme
1.	Andhra Pradesh	172
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20
3.	Assam	102
4.	Bihar	123
5.	Goa	70
6.	Gujarat	171
7.	Haryana	127
8.	Himachal Pradesh	214
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	53
10.	Karnataka	377
11.	Kerala	177
12.	Madhya Pradesh	422
13.	Maharashtra	404
14.	Manipur	26
15.	Meghalaya	42
16.	Mizoram	17
17.	Nagaland	17
18.	Orissa	117
19.	Punjab	137
20.	Rajasthan	239
21.	Sikkim	22
22.	Tamil Nadu	195
23.	Tripura	46
24.	Uttar Pradesh	434
25.	West Bengal	257
26.	A & N Islands	22
27.	Chandigarh Admn.	8
28.	NCT (Delhi)	210
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	9
30.	Daman & Diu	4
31.	Lakshadweep	9
32.	Pondicherry	8