

[English]

**Model Concession Agreement for Large Highway Projects**

218. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :  
SHRI S.S. OWASI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Highway Authority of India has finalised model concession agreement for large projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this agreement has been prepared after due consultation with stake holders;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of large projects at present in hand for which this agreement will be applicable in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Pending FERA Cases**

219. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :  
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of FERA cases pending with the FERA Board as on April 30, 1998 and the number of fresh cases, on an average added during a month;

(b) the number of FERA cases pending disposal for more than two years;

(c) the reasons for delay in the disposal of cases; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government to clear the backlog of FERA cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (d) 4528 cases were pending as on April 30, 1998. The average addition of cases in FERA Board is 20 cases per month. The present strength of the Board is not adequate to handle the existing workload. Efforts are being made to create two posts of full-time Members in the FERA Board.

**Dropout Rate**

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

(a) whether the number of students who dropout before and after completing class X is increasing from year to year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to impart them any vocational training in order to make them economically independents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to check the dropout rate at the primary level in States like Orissa, M.P. and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) According to available information, the drop-out rate for children in class I-X has shown a declining trend in recent years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has received no proposal from the State Governments for imparting vocational training to children who drop out from school.

(e) The Central and State Governments have taken several measures to facilitate completion of schooling by children. These relate to increased access to schools, particularly in rural areas; improvement in school infrastructure; environment building and community mobilisation; greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institution; incentives for girls and SC/ST students such as free-textbooks, uniforms and attendance scholarships; Mid-Day Meals Programme. Internationally assisted basic education projects such as District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), which is being implemented in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, have designed contextually relevant strategies to ensure better participation and retention of children at primary level.

**Sea Turtles in Orissa**

221. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has sought assistance to save the sea turtles along the Orissa coast and particularly in Bhitarkanika areas;