

(c) and (d) As per the existing policy, due care is being taken for recruitment of candidates hailing from tribal/backward/rural areas of the country. The Branch Recruiting Officers periodically visit each district of their area for recruitment subject to vacancies based upon recruitable male population.

Branch Recruiting Office (BRO) Ahmedabad covers the Chota Udaipur region of Gujarat. Recruitment is an on-going process. BRO Ahmedabad carried out recruitment tour to Chota Udaipur in July 1995 and has planned a tour again during May 1997

[English]

Plantation in N.H. Land

1300. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to permit public sector corporations, private companies and voluntary organisations to develop and maintain gardens, tree plantations and landscaping in vacant National Highway land on either side of the road;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions proposed in connection thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To develop and maintain gardens/tree plantation/landscaping in vacant National Highway land on either side of the road/central verges/rotaries for beautification, a strip of National Highway land can be allotted to reputed organisations under a Memorandum of Understanding. The salient features of the scheme are as in the attached statement.

Statement

The salient features of the scheme are as under :

1. The entire cost of developing and maintaining gardens/tree plantation/landscaping shall be borne by the concerned Agency.
2. No construction of any kind will be permitted on the National Highway land.
3. No commercial usage of any kind from the land by way of sale of plants, setting up of Nursery, etc. shall be permitted.
4. The Agency shall be allowed to publicise the free service on hoarding of approved size, which should not distract the attention of vehicle drivers.
5. The garden/tree plantation/ land scaping will be developed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Engineer in Charge and the National Highway land will be vacated if so desired for the development of the

road or any other public purpose in a clean condition within one month of the notice.

6. The ownership of the said N.H. land shall continue to vest with Ministry of Surface Transport at all times.
7. Memorandum of Understanding will generally be valid for five years. Renewal beyond five years will be considered taking into account the performance of the Agency and the needs of National Highway development.

C.G.H.S. Dispensary

1301. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries running in hired buildings or in Government quarters in Delhi;

(b) whether the Government have taken any action to construct buildings to house such CGHS dispensaries;

(c) whether the land earmarked for the construction of CGHS dispensaries in Delhi are under encroachment; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government so far to get the lands cleared of encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) There are 21 CGHS dispensaries running in hired buildings and 36 dispensaries in Government quarters.

(b) Yes, Sir. The construction work is undertaken in a phased manner subject to availability of land and resources.

(c) and (d) CGHS takes possession of the land from DDA/Land and Development Officer only when it is free from encumbrances.

[Translation]

Pending IP in Bihar

1302. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Irrigation Projects in Bihar lying pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) the details of the projects approved so far;

(c) the names of the projects lying pending for approval; and

(d) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Four major and two medium new irrigation projects of Bihar are pending with Central Water Commission.

(b) 27 Major, 68 medium and 3 Extension, Renovation, and Modernisation Projects of Bihar were approved by the Planning Commission upto 12/96.

(c) Pun-Pun Morhar Dhardha, Punasi Reservoir, Sone Canal Modernisation, Subernarekhja Multipurpose Reservoir, Katri Reservoir and Kundghat Reservoir Projects are pending for approval in Central Water Commission.

(d) The clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness with which the State Government complies with the observations of Central agencies.

[English]

Illegal Smuggling by Diplomats

1303. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian diplomats role seen in art smuggling" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated February 8, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the facts of the matter have been ascertained by the Government;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the preventive measures being taken to ensure that no works of art/antiques are smuggled out of India especially by diplomats?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no evidence that any Indian diplomat is involved.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Export and import of baggage of diplomats is governed by the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations which provides no immunity with regard to articles, the import or export of which is prohibited by the law. Therefore, any diplomat trying to smuggle in or out any item prohibited under law is subject to internationally accepted investigative and preventive procedures governing diplomatic corps. The implementation of the relevant law is ensured by the customs authorities of the concerned State.

Expressway in M.P.

1304. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position in regard to construction of express highway between Dewas and Indore in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the estimated cost of the 'express-way' and share of State and Union Government;

(c) whether land has been acquired; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G.VENKATRAMAN): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Acupuncture System

1305. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request to recognise acupuncture as a system of therapy;

(b) if so, the number of requests received by the Government for the purpose during the last three years and action taken on each of them; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to recognise acupuncture as system of therapy by bringing a legislation on the pattern of "West Bengal Acupuncture System of Therapy Bill, 1996"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Kanyakumari-Mysore N.H

1306. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct National Highway from Kanyakumari to Mysore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Russian made Weapons

1307. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Russian made weapons and other hardware in the possession of our Defence Forces;

(b) if so, whether the spare parts for these weapons and hardware are available in the international market; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to manufacture these spare parts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Russia on guaranteed supply of Defence equipment related items/spare parts, product support and comprehensive services needed for maintenance/repairs overhaul and modernisation. Following the