

(b) if so whether his Ministry also extends the facility of canteen services to the employees retiring from the Armed Forces Headquarters;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by his Ministry to extend the facility of canteen services to its employees on retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N SOMU) : (a) to (d) The Canteen Stores Department has been set up primarily for the benefit of Defence Service Personnel and extension of a portion of this facility to certain categories of Defence Civilian Personnel is incidental. As the conditions of Service of such Civilian Personnel are quite distinct from those of Defence Service Personnel, further extension of this benefit to the Civilian employees retiring from the Armed Forces Head Quarter is not considered necessary. Nor can it be justified in the light of tax concessions and the additional infrastructural expenditure involved. As such presently there is no proposal to extend these facilities to the retired Civilian Defence employees.

Shortage of Combat Aircraft

702. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Air Force is facing a shortage of combat aircraft;

(b) if so, the steps taken to strengthen its air strike capability;

(c) whether the Government have or propose to negotiate Sukhoi (Russian) aircraft which is full of pitfalls and will not in any manner strengthen our Air Force fighter units; and

(d) if so, the details of the basic technical drawbacks in the aircraft and the corrective measure taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) The strength of combat aircraft is to be viewed against the strike capability. Per se, the number may not indicate its capability. In order, to maintain and enhance the air strike capability of the IAF a number of steps have been taken to modernise/strengthen the IAF in view of the current as well as futuristic threat perceptions. These steps include mid life upgradation of some of the existing aircraft/ weapon systems, acquisition of additional air defence/air superiority aircraft and induction of multi-role state-of-the-

art aircraft. Steps have also been taken to strengthen the electronic warfare armour of the IAF, as well as for provision of precision guided munitions to enhance accuracy and lethality of its strike power. Combat aircraft and attack helicopters in the IAF inventory are also being equipped with night attack capability to enable them to operate in both day and night conditions.

(c) Formal induction of SU-30 state-of-the-art multi-role aircraft into the IAF has already taken place. SU-30 aircraft has no pitfalls.

(d) The aircraft equipped with the latest avionics, is one of the best available in the world in its class.

Projects on NHs

703. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing projects on National Highways like construction of bypass, doubling, construction of express highways etc., State-wise;

(b) the details of the projects that are pending incomplete from more than five years, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the delay,

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether any amount sanctioned under these projects have been used/shifted for other places; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) State-wise details are given in the Statement-I attached.

(b) State-wise details are given in the Statement-II attached.

(c) Reasons for delay include delay/difficulty in land acquisition, delay in shifting of utilities which involves number of departments, some cases of incomplete investigations and delay in finalisation of designs, change of scope due to site conditions, floods, contractual problems, labour problems, legal disputes, stay orders granted by courts and paucity of funds etc.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to cut short delay in future projects. Some of these are:

(i) Feasibility study and detailed engineering reports are being prepared by Consultants so as to

- have comprehensive site investigations and minimise variation in quantities during execution.
- (ii) Projects being taken up only after land acquisition.
- (iii) Contractors being pre-qualified for major projects before awarding contracts.
- (iv) Major projects are being considered for investment decision only after shifting of utilities.
- (e) As all expenditure on sanctioned works can only be reimbursed, there is no question of diversion of funds.
- (f) Does not arise.

Statement-I*State-wise List showing number of Ongoing National Projects*

Sl. No.	Name of States	Widening Single lane to 2-lane No.	Widening 2-lane to 4-lane No.	Express Way No.	Bye Passes No.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	4	—	—	—
5.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
6.	Delhi	—	—	—	—
7.	Goa	—	—	—	1
8.	Gujarat	—	15	1	1
9.	Haryana	—	7	—	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	11	—	—	3
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	9	1	—	2
13.	Kerala	1	1	—	4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	—	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Maharashtra	—	3	—	—
16.	Manipur	—	—	—	—
17.	Meghalaya	3	—	—	—
18.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—
19.	Orissa	15	2	—	1
20.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
21.	Punjab	1	1	—	1
22.	Rajasthan	2	1	—	1
23.	Tamil Nadu	—	1	—	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	2	—	5
25.	West Bengal	3	—	1	1
Total		63	34	2	25

Statement-II

State-wise List showing number of National Highway projects pending incomplete for more than Five Years

Sl. No.	Name of States	Widening Single lane to 2-lane	Widening 2-lane to 4-lane	Express Way	Eye Passes
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	4	—	—	—
5.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
6.	Delhi	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Goa	—	—	—	—
8.	Gujarat	—	5	1	1
9.	Haryana	—	5	—	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3	—	—	2
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	—	1	—	1
13.	Kerala	—	1	—	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10	—	—	2
15.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—
16.	Manipur	—	—	—	—
17.	Meghalaya	3	—	—	—
18.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—
19.	Orissa	6	—	—	1
20.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
21.	Punjab	—	—	—	—
22.	Rajasthan	1	1	—	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	—	1	—	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	1	—	3
25.	West Bengal	3	—	1	—
Total		31	15	2	16