

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

(a) the details of the programmes undertaken by the Indira Gandhi Open University so far; and

(b) the details of the progress made so far and also the details of the future programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI-MATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). The University has started two diploma programmes, one in Management and the other in Distance Education, in January, 1987. These programmes are in progress. Fresh admission to these courses and a new diploma programme in Creative Writing is proposed to be made in January, 1988. Admission to B.A. and B.Com. courses is proposed to be made in July, 1988. To begin with, a preparatory programme for those who have not passed their higher secondary examination is being conducted between January and June, 1988. An entrance test for admission to this preparatory programme was held in September, 1987. Beside, the University also proposes to introduce Diploma programmes in Computer Education, Library Science, Tribal Education and Women's Education. Preparation of instructional material for these courses is in progress.

[English]

**Strengthening of Tamil Nadu Section of National Highway No.47**

\*305. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are proposed for the strengthening of the Tamil Nadu section of the Trivandrum-Kanyakumari National Highway No. 47; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two estimates amounting to Rs. 150.81 lakhs have recently been sanctioned for strengthening of km. 625/0 to 631/2 and from km. 644/0 to 650/0 of Trivandrum-Kanyakumari section of National Highway No. 47 in Tamil Nadu.

**Financial Crisis in Asiatic Society**

\*306. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Asiatic Society, a premier institution of research and studies in the country, is facing acute financial crisis following non-imbursement of funds by the Centre;

(b) if so, the funds sanctioned and released so far by the Centre during the current financial year to this institution;

(c) the reasons for delay in releasing the funds in full; and

(d) what steps are being taken for immediate release of the sanctioned funds to avoid imminent closure of this institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI-MATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The Central Government provides funds for approved schemes and projects. The question of reimbursement does not arise. Against the budget provisions for the Asiatic Society for the year 1987-88 of Rs.59.00 lakhs (Plan) and Rs. 46.38 lakhs (Non-Plan), Rs. 25.91 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 20.72 lakhs under Non-Plan have been released so far in the current financial year. These include funds carried forward from 1986-87 under both heads.

Release of funds have been made in