

(a) whether any fresh proposal in regard to privatisation of the Government hospitals in the country is under consideration of the Government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### **Defence Cooperation between India and USA**

417. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the defence cooperation between India and USA ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c). Government are pursuing a policy of establishing and enhancing cooperation in the defence sector, with various countries including the USA. Steps are being taken to give effect to this policy in a phased manner and to the extent necessitated by and consistent with national interest. During the visit of the US Defence Secretary to India in January 1995, and 'Agreed Minute' on Defence relations between India and USA was signed. It provides for civilian-to-civilian interaction, service-to-service cooperation and cooperation in the field of research and development.

[English]

#### **Poverty Eradication Programme**

418. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finally decided to implement integrated urban poverty eradication programme announced by the P.M. last year on Independence day ;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified more than 600 class-II towns where slums are fast developing ;

(c) if so, whether the Government have decided that the 345 towns will be covered in the first phase of the programme;

(d) if so, the details of the same ;

(e) the time by which the programme is likely to be implemented fully ; and

(f) the main objective of the plan and the number of persons likely to be benefitted by this plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). All the 345 Class II urban agglomerations in the country as per 1991 Census are identified for coverage under the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) .

(e) and (f). The objectives of the Programme are effective achievement of social sector goals, community empowerment, employment generation and skill upgradation, convergence and environmental improvement. Nearly 5 million urban poor would be benefitted in the entire Programme period of 5 years (1995-96 to 1999-2000).

[Translation]

#### **Expansion of Territorial Army**

419. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI BRIJBHUSAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government for the expansion of the Government for expansion of territorial army with a view to reduce burden on the army and to curtail defence expenditure ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted for this purpose ; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d). There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for expanding the Territorial Army with a view to reducing the burden on the regular army. A Committee has, however, been set up by the Government to go into the question of the concept, role and employment of the Territorial Army.

[English]

#### Safety Measures

420. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

Sl. No.	Signalling Description	To be completed in 95-96	To be completed in 1996-97
1.	Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark Track Circuiting	146 Stations	216 Stations
2.	Fouling Mark to Block Seciton Limit	275 Stations	404 Stations
3.	Other loop lines	17 Stations	22 Stations
4.	Funds allotted	Rs. 34 Crore (Approx.)	Rs. 50 Crore (Provi)

#### 2. Telecommunication Works

Two schems for provision of Universal Train Radio Communication between driver, guard and nearest station at a cost of Rs. 3.68 crore and Rs. 1.64 crore respectively on Southern and Central Railway have been proposed.

The works for similar facilities in electrified sections are being proposed in Works Programme 1996-97, which is under process, costing about Rs. 50 crore. These schemes will also take 2 years for execution after approval.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(a) whether the Government have recently announced time-bound implementation targets for safety schemes like track-signalling and wireless communications schemes etc. in the Railways ;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes to be implemented during the current financial year and the coming two years and the amount of funds allocated for these Schemes, Scheme-wise ;

(c) whether the Government have since set up a high level Group for improving the safety measures ; and

(d) if so, the recommendations of the Group and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the schemes for track circuiting on trunk routes and main run through lines and wierless communication to be implemented during the current financial year and the next year and the funds allotted for these schemes are as under :

(d) The Group has not yet completed its study. Action will be taken on receipt of its report.

#### Legal Service Authority

421. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the main features of recently formed Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 ; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the benefits of this Act only to poor and weaker sections of the society ?