

(b) whether the issue of huge expenditure incurred by the neighbouring countries on the Department of Defence is being ignored by the Government; and

(c) the steps likely to be taken by Government to equip the army with modernised aircrafts, weapons etc.. to meet the security thereof by neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The requirement of funds is projected by the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of Finance, which decides on the actual allocation for the year, keeping in view the overall availability of national resources, national security and the requirements of different sectors. Ministry of Defence had projected a requirement of Rs.31925.61 crores for Defence allocation for the year 1996-97 against which the allocation presented by the Finance Minister in the Budget 1996-97 provides Rs.27819 crores for Defence.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Having regard to the developments in the neighbouring countries, all efforts are being made to equip the Army with the required equipment and weapon systems to meet our security concerns.

[English]

Laws for the Use of Basin River Water

2913. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a law prohibiting the use of water of one river basin in a neighbouring river basin;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to amend the Act to facilitate diversion of water to help the drought prone areas to fill in water in their tanks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Medical Colleges

2914. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the AIIMS, majority of the country's medical colleges are imparting sub-standard medical training;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Such a study conducted by the All

India Institute of Medical Sciences has come to notice of the Government.

(b) The methodology adopted and conclusions arrived are yet to be evaluated by the Medical Council of India;

(c) Medical Council of India conducts periodical inspection of medical colleges to assess the standards of medical education imparted. Under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 as amended prior permission of Central Government is required for opening a new college, increase of seats and opening higher courses of study.

Four Lane N.H. in Kerala

2915. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Edappally-Kanyakumari four lane Highway will be completed in the stipulated time;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to have such a four lane Highway in the Northern part of Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the project of Kanyakumari-Bombay Highway will be taken up in the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Edappally to Shertalai of NH 47 is being four laned, for which the target date of completion of 14-9-97, has been revised to 14-7-1998, due to unprecedented rains and extended monsoon.

(c) to (f). Due to paucity of funds and considering inter-se priority of four laning of National Highways in the country, no other proposal for four laning has been considered in Kerala State.

Bridge on N.H.-8 in Gujarat

2916. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem faced by the traffic due to a bottleneck at Watrak Bridge near Kheda on N.H.-8 in Gujarat;

(b) whether there is a provision of construction of new bridge to remove this bottleneck;

(c) if so, the details thereof and in which development plan it was included; and

(d) the present status of the case?