

SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Central Road Research Institute has been undertaking research on new materials and techniques for improving the quality of roads under Research & Development schemes sponsored by the Ministry.

[Translation]

Quota for Nepalese Students

2518. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to increase the quota of Nepal in Engineering and Medical Colleges in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) The allocation of seats for foreign students desiring admission in institutions of higher learning in India is done by the Ministry of Health in the case of Medicine, and Ministry of Human Resource Development in the case of Engineering. Medical seats have been decreasing over the years. The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Health for an increase in the number of seats for foreign students. If extra seats are made available, the quota for all beneficiary countries, including Nepal, would be increased.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Bilateral Relations with Myanmar

2519. SHRI CHITTA BASU :

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any initiative to strengthen bilateral relations with Myanmar including trade relations since withdrawal of restriction of movement of opposition leader Mrs. Anug San Suu Kyi by the Government of Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to resume economic aid to that country and to adopt constructive engagement by building roads on both sides of the borders;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to obtain the support of Myanmar to fight insurgency in the border areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken to encourage Myanmar students to pursue studies in India

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) India continues to work towards maintaining stable and cooperative relations between the two countries. We have welcomed the release of Daw Aung San Suu Aki.

(c) and (d) A proposal for construction of roads in Myanmar aimed at developing the areas contiguous to the India border is also under consideration of Government of India.

(e) and (f) Government of India has sought the Cooperation of the Government of Myanmar in countering insurgency in the North East areas.

(g) Government is providing assistance in Training the Myanmar candidates in various fields under ITEC and also providing facilities of admission to various courses in India.

Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad

2520. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge backlog of Passport applications in the Regional Passport Office in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date;

(c) whether a special drive is proposed to be undertaken to clear the backlog of applications; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) The total number of passport applications pending in Passport Office, Hyderabad has been reduced which as on 30.6.1995 was 21,713 compared to 27,541 on 30.6.1994.

(c) and (d) Government have and shall continue to take steps to streamline the working of Passport Offices and issue passports expeditiously, such as augmentation of staff strength, upgradation of office facilities including computerisation, review of systems and procedures in order to reduce delays, regular inspections of passport offices and follow-up action.

India Habitat Centre

2521. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the original concept behind India Habitat Centre, New Delhi;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the original concept has been adhered to;
- (d) whether there is wide divergence between original concept and the final outcome; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (e). India Habitat Centre is registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act and is an autonomous organisation which is not in receipt of public funds or grants. The Centre has been set up with the objective of developing an integrated physical environment in which various professions and institutions dealing with the different facets of Habitat and Habitat related environmental issues would function, interact and endeavour to resolve Habitat related problems in a coordinated manner, membership to the Centre is decided by a Special Committee considering the above criteria.

Sick Fertilizer Units

2522. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether four fertilizer units were shut down in the last week of June, 1995 and some more units are on the verge of closure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof?
- (c) the main reasons for their closure?
- (d) whether the Government propose to extend assistance for the revival of these units; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The three operating units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI), namely, Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher; and the Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.(HFC), were under shut down during the last week of June, 95 for undertaking annual turn around jobs. The production at Durgapur unit had to be temporarily suspended during this period due to equipment breakdown. Production has been resumed in Sindri and Talcher units of FCI and plant start up activities are in progress at Ramagundam unit of FCI and Barauni unit of HFC.

Gorakhpur unit of FCI has been closed since 10.6.90 following an accident in the plant.

(d) to (e) In order to enable FCI and HFC to sustain production of fertilizers at their operating units, Government has agreed to provide additional non-plan budgetary support of Rs.231.50 crores over and above the budgeted amount of Rs.50.50 crores for the current financial year.

The Government has recently approved, in principle, the revival packages for FCI and HFC which envisage revamp of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI; and Barauni, Durgapur and Namrup units of HFC. Since revamp of Gorakhpur unit of FCI and Haldia project of HFC was not found economically viable, it has been decided to consider the option of attracting private capital for their rehabilitation. The revival packages would entail fresh investment of Rs.2201.13 crores (Rs.1736.29 crores for FCI and Rs.464.93 crores for HFC), apart from capital restructuring and other financial reliefs to these undertakings. Arrangements for funding the revival packages have not been tied up so far. The implementation of the revival packages is contingent on tying up of funding arrangements and approval of the same by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Coca Cola

2523. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the manufacturing units set up by M/s Coca Cola and its subsidiaries in the country;
- (b) the total employees of this company in India-including managers and non-managerial employees; and
- (c) the number of foreign nationals employed by this company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Jaipur-Delhi National Highway

2524. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the work of construction of four laning of road from Jaipur to Delhi is in progress;
- (b) if so, the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;
- (c) the expenditure incurred thereon during 1994-95 and the extent of construction work completed so far; and
- (d) the time by which the remaining work is likely to