

the Seventh Five Year Plan period and their locations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c). The present out-turn of the Medical graduates every year from the existing Medical Colleges is considered sufficient to meet the medical manpower requirements of the country. Therefore, the present policy of the Government of India is not to encourage the setting up of any new medical colleges in the country. Emphasis is laid on the consolidation and improvement of the existing facilities for training medical manpower rather than expansion of the same.

#### Maintenance of National Highways in Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh

4 71. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the National Highways in Guntur and Prakasam Districts are in bad shape and immediate attention is needed at least for their maintenance; and

(b) if so, the action taken for proper maintenance of Highways in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). Estimates amounting to Rs. 18.00 lakhs and Rs. 310.73 lakhs have already been sanctioned for improvement of National Highways in Prakasam and Guntur Districts respectively and the works are in various stages of progress. In addition to this, estimates amounting to Rs. 15.72 lakhs for rectification of damages have also been sanctioned.

#### Functioning of Ministry of Water Resources and Central Water Commission

4272. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the functioning in his Ministry and the Central Water Commis-

sion in regard to the administrative efficiency and speedy disposal of work has been reviewed recently in accordance with the decision of the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, what are the active steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In pursuance of the Prime Minister's decision, this Ministry's functioning was reviewed to ensure that procedures are simplified and necessary powers are delegated to middle level officials and field units to expedite decision making. An annual action plan has also been drawn up for the Ministry in respect of various items requiring action and the target dates for their completion have been fixed. In the Central Water Commission also, similar steps have been taken.

#### Apex Road Transport Finance Corporation

4273. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association (IRIDA) has urged Government to set up an Apex Road Transport Finance Corporation to finance the expansion schemes of the State Road Transport Corporations; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) The suggestion of establishing a Central Road Transport Development Finance Corporation has been made by the concerned interests at various forums. Transport Development Council also in its past several meetings has been emphasizing the need for such a Corporation, which can act as an agency to assist the State Road Transport Undertakings by way of loan finance to enable them to acquire new buses and related infrastructure. Pursuant to its directions in its last meeting held in