

tute for the Visually Handicapped, an autonomous body under the Government runs one School for the Blind and Partially Sighted children from pre-school to the secondary stage (up to Class X). The following facilities are provided:-

- (i) Board, lodging, tuition, books, equipment and clothing free of charge.
- (ii) A pocket money of Rs. 36/- per head per month for students from class VI onwards. Articles of daily living etc. are provided free of charge to students upto class Five.

(b) and (c). The National Institute for the Visually Handicapped is conducting an extensive survey of schools for the Blind in the country. Through this Survey information on teaching facilities, books, living conditions is expected to be available among other items. On the basis of information thus gathered deficiency, if any, in the concerned areas would be identified and remedial measures suggested to the State Govts. and agencies running those institutions.

MI-28 Helicopter Gunships from Soviet Union

2262. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Soviet Union has offered to sell to India the export version of its MI-28 helicopter gunships;

(b) whether any negotiation has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY

OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No, Sir.

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

Construction of Yatri Niwas

2263. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in the sanction and construction of the Yatrikas/Serais and other Tourist Accommodation at Sri Naina Devi, District Bilaspur, Deot Siddha, District Hamirpur, Jawalamukhi, District Kangra, Chintpurni, District Una and Rewalsar, District Mandi;

(b) if so, the dates on which the projects were sanctioned, the estimated cost at the initial stage of sanction and the target period for completion of construction in each case as also the present progress of each project; and

(c) the reasons for delay and the fresh estimated cost and the date of completion in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (c). The proposals for financial assistance for construction of Yatrika are taken up at the request of Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti, a Government sponsored registered Society. The Samiti has taken up one project of Yatrika at Naina Devi which could not materialised due to non-availability of suitable piece of land. Samiti has not indicated proposals for yatrikas at Deot Siddha, District Hamirpur, Jwalamukhi, District Kangra, Chintpurni, District Una and Rewalswar, District Mandi. Due to administrative reasons release of funds to the Samiti has been with held and no new proposals are being considered.