

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (f). The procurement of uniform and blankets for the soldiers of Indian Army is made on continuous basis throughout the year. The details of the procurement of uniform and blanket made from 1.3.96 to 30.6.96 from Addl. Director General (ordance Factories) and Handloom Sector (ACASH) and Trade is as under :-

S.No.	Item	Quantity (Nos.)	Amount (Rs.)
1.	Shirt Plain Weave Polyester Cotton	90,506	2,12,68,910
2.	Trouser Plain Weave Polyester Cotton	1,04,745	3,089,775
3.	Blanket	1,94,423	5,76,62,475
4.	Boot Ankle DVS	2,38,454	10,37,27,490
5.	Socks Men OG	6,84,996	3,76,23,620

The defect reports during last three years from the user units in respect of some of the items given above were received and were investigated by Director General Quality Assurance. The Defects in the uniform were in the nature of colour fading, colour not matching. As far as Boots are concerned, the defects was in the nature of separation of sole. Based on the findings of the defect Report investigations, Army authorities have advised inspection staff to keep strict watch on quality and to advise Ordance Equipment Factory, Kanpur, to improve quality standards.

[English]

Super National Highways

1368. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited bids to construct Super National Highways in the country under public-private joint venture programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof with State-wise break-up; and

(c) the total investment required for the purpose and sources of funds thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir. However, National Highways Authority of India and invited global tenders from private sector for carrying out the feasibility studies

for the proposed Super National Highways. In response, 22 bidders, Indian as well as Foreign, submitted their proposals.

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

[Translation]

Women Development Corporation

1369. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Women Development Corporation has since been set up in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the names of districts where it has been set up; and

(c) the details of work undertaken by the Corporation, till date?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Gujrat Women Economic Development Corporation Limited is working in the entire state of Gujarat.

(c) The Corporation has taken up the following schemes for the empowerment and economic development of women :

- (i) Skill training schemes for women in various trades;
- (ii) Credit scheme for women through nationalised banks for starting income generating activities;
- (iii) Margin money assistance to women's industrial cooperatives;
- (iv) Assured marketing facility for women's co-operative societies;
- (v) Awareness generation schemes; and
- (vi) marketing facilities for women entrepreneurs/ women co-operatives etc. by organising exhibition-cum-sale at different places in the country.

[English]

Nuclear Programme

1370. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to Indian Express dated April 14, 1996 under the caption "US Report says India willing to go-slow on Nuclear Programme";

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the Press report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJARAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The news report is not correct.

[Translation]

Private Sector in Road Development

1371. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to encourage private companies to participate in road development projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above mentioned scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). Yes, Madam. The Government has decided to involve private sector in road construction on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Necessary amendment in the National Highways Act, 1956 for allowing private sector participation in the development of National Highways has already been carried out in June, 1995 for the purpose and the scheme is already in implementation stage.

[English]

Enrolment Capacity of Kendriya Vidyalaya System

1372. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of schools sanctioned, number of posts of teachers and enrolment capacity of the Kendriya Vidyalaya system during the academic year 1995-96, State-wise; and

(b) the total number of teachers actually in service and the total number of students actually on the rolls during the academic year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b). There were a total 838 Kendriya Vidyalayas during 1995-96 including 22 New Kendriya Vidyalayas opened during 1995-96.

As against sanctioned strength of 34,065, 31,017 teachers were in position during 1995-96

Information regarding enrolment capacity and actual number of Students enrolled during 1995-96 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

National Malaria Eradication Programme

1373. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

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

(a) whether the Governments of Assam and Maharashtra have submitted a proposal to the Union Government for application of the National Malaria Eradication Programme in the States including tribal and hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). The National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP) is already in operation throughout the country including Assam and Maharashtra with increased input in tribal and hilly areas.

100% Central assistance under NMEP is already being provided to the State of Assam since December 1994 which covers the whole of Assam including tribal and hill areas of the State. Maharashtra State is being assisted under the National Malaria Eradication Programme on a 50:50 sharing basis between the Central and State Government.

Besides, for the purpose of intensification of Malaria Control Activities in the tribal areas of seven peninsula States including Maharashtra, A Malaria Control Project for obtaining external assistance in currently under formulation.

AIDS Control

1374. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

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

(a) whether the World Health Organisation are providing assistance to control AIDS in the country;

(b) if so, the assistance received during the last three years from each of the organisation;

(c) the amount released to the State Government during the above period, State-wise;

(d) the percentage of annual allocation utilized over these years;

(e) the reasons for failure to ensure better utilization of WHO funds;

(f) whether the Government are aware that in Mumbai, cases of Toxoplasma (brain lesions) are occurring more frequently as compared with other parts of the world; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?