

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The Government is committed to further enhance bilateral relations and cooperation with Sri Lanka. A meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission chaired by External Affairs Minister and the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister is proposed to be held in Colombo later this year. Prior to the Joint Commission, it is proposed to convene meetings of the Sub-commissions on Science & Technology and Social, Cultural and Educational Matters in Colombo. The Joint Commission would review the progress made in various spheres of bilateral cooperation and would also identify new areas of cooperation.

(b) Yes Sir, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister paid a two days goodwill visit to India on June 20 and 21, 1996.

(c) In the discussions held with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, both India and Sri Lanka emphasised the high priority given to maintenance of close and cordial bilateral relations. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the present state of bilateral cooperation and agreed that there were possibilities for further enhancing ties. It was agreed that Sri Lanka would host the third session of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission later this year which would plan improvement of relations in all fields. Discussions were held on improving ties in the economic field. The question of fisheries and problems faced by fishermen of the two countries was also discussed and the two sides agreed to hold consultations to resolve these problems expeditiously.

Sea Erosion

433 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN . Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of or received any Reports from the Government of Kerala regarding the extent of sea erosion caused by the recent squalls along the west coast.

(b) if so, the details of findings/report, and

(c) the details of relief granted by the Union Government to the State of Kerala in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise

[Translation]

Opening of Schools in Rural Areas

434 SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have conducted any country-wide survey to find out the number of rural

and backward areas where there are no primary schools and the distance the children of the area have to cover to attend school for education;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide schools in those areas on priority basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to the families living below the poverty line for spread of education in such areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. All India Educational Surveys are conducted periodically by States under the aegis of National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to assess the availability of existing schooling facilities at different stages of education. The 6th All India Survey, which has been conducted recently, has ascertained the number of rural habitations without primary schools and the distance-wise availability of primary schools.

(b) and (c). According to available information, 94% of the country's rural population has access to a primary school within one km. of walking distance. The responsibility for establishing primary schools in the unserved and under-served areas lies with the respective State Governments which have evolved their own norms for the purpose in accordance with broad national guidelines.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry.

(e) Does not arise

Pension to Soldiers of Second World War

435. SHRI R.B. RAI Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether pension scheme has been introduced for the ex-soldiers who were demobilized after second World War, and

(b) If so, the amount given to them per mensem and the procedures thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) (a) No Sir

(b) Question does not arise

[English]

Irrigation Project

436. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether any proposal to modernise certain

irrigation projects in Karnataka has been received by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No proposal for modernisation of irrigation projects in Karnataka is pending at the Centre.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Ex-Servicemen

437 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of ex-servicemen in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the total amount provided so far to ex-servicemen who have retired prematurely without pension as their battalions have been disbanded, and

(c) the amount given as scholarship to the wards of the ex-servicemen by the Ex-servicemen Boards during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU) : (a) To collect reliable data regarding the number of ex-servicemen in the country, a scheme of registration and issue of identity cards was introduced in 1992. Under the Scheme, all ex-servicemen and their widows are required to register themselves with the Zila Sainik Boards. The State-wise details of ex-servicemen registered with various Zila Sainik Boards in the country as on 31.3.1996 are given in the Statement enclosed

(b) There has been no disbandment of any Army battalion in the recent past

(c) Kendriya Sainik Board is not giving any scholarship to the wards of ex-servicemen. However, as per policy of the Central Government, children of the defence personnel killed or permanently disabled in action, who are studying in the Government run educational institutions are granted complete exemption from tuition fee and other fees levied by the institution. Children studying in boarding schools and colleges are also provided grants to meet hostel charges, in full. Besides, some of the State Governments are providing scholarship/stipends to the wards of war widows/ex-servicemen disabled in action, at different rates. The details of the amount paid by the State Governments are not monitored at the Centre.

STATEMENT

Registered Ex-servicemen population

RSB	Total number of	
	ESM	WID
1. Andhra Pradesh	50083	9195
2. Arunachal Pradesh	163	2
2 Assam	13168	994
4. Bihar	49196	4029
5 Goa	1281	93
6 Gujarat	9376	1042
7 Himachal Pradesh	69604	16430
8 Haryana	130957	23329
9 Jammu & Kashmir	39092	8661
10 Kerala	111793	17883
11 Karnataka	38025	7324
12 Maharashtra	113712	20016
13 Meghalaya	1588	383
14 Mizoram	3708	821
15 Manipur	2779	271
16 Madhya Pradesh	23567	3395
17 Nagaland	1787	322
18 Orissa	11426	893
19 Punjab	160877	27545
20 Rajasthan	82314	15297
21 Sikkim	1369	369
22 Tamil Nadu	92287	25449
23 Tripura	1268	293
24 Uttar Pradesh	229688	39446
25 West Bengal	28152	2499
26 A&N Islands	370	28
27 Chandigarh	4879	611
28 Delhi	27059	2871
29 Pondicherry	1047	193
Total	1298615	229684

Note : ESM = Ex-servicemen

WID = Widows

Assistance By ODA

438 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh for sanctioning funds by the Overseas Development Authority for improving slums, roads, houses for poor and drainage facilities in the State.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

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