

**AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):**

(a) Land acquisition for the entire length is in progress. Out of 164 Hectares of land, 62 hectares were taken possession of. Contract for earthwork and construction of minor and major bridges for a length of 6.0 KMs has been awarded and the works are in various stages of progress. The amount spent upto the end of June 82 is Rs. 5.58 crores. The overall present progress on the project is 18%.

(b) March, 1985 subject to availability of funds.

**Working Knowledge of Second Language for Secondary School Children**

1190. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in many parts of the world new and very competent methods are being used to give Secondary School Children a working knowledge of the second language within a relatively short period of two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that in our country the method remains age-old and our children often do not, on an average, acquire a working knowledge of a second language even after putting in six years efforts (class VI to XII);

(c) if so, whether Government are contemplating any change in our method; and

(d) if so, what are those?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) Government has no specific information about any such instance.

(b) to (d) It is not correct to say that students in our country do not acquire working knowledge of second language even after five-six years' teaching. However, continuous efforts are made to improve upon and modernise instructional materials, teaching aids and methodologies.

**Growth of Population in India During 1980 and 1981**

1191. SHRI K. A. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the actual rate of growth of population in India in 1980 and 1981, both in terms of percentages and actual figures; and

(b) the steps being taken to arrest this growth

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) The natural growth rate for the calendar year 1980 has been estimated by the Registrar General of India at 2.08 per cent and the net addition at 13 million. The date for 1981 are not available.

(b) The salient features of the strategy towards controlling the population growth are :—

(i) Adoption of the "small family norm" will continue to be promoted entirely on a voluntary basis.

(ii) Intensified efforts will be made to spread awareness and information about small family concept by effective and imaginative use of multi-media and inter-zonal communication strategies.