

for their redressal. Moreover, every Passport Officer meets the public daily in order to hear complaints personally following which necessary follow-up action is taken in the matter. Apart from this, an officer of the CPV Division at Deputy Secretary level also meets the public daily to resolve problems. Written complaints addressed to the Chief Passport Officer received from various quarters are also taken up with concerned Passport Offices for their redressal.

(c) and (d). Since no specific instance has come to the notice of the Ministry during the last two years where an officer was found wanting in the discharge of his duties/responsibilities specifically relating to handling of complaints and grievances of the public, the question of fixing responsibilities does not arise.

[English]

### **Expenditure on Major Ports**

3778. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of provisions made for development and modernisation of major ports of the country during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of expenses incurred thereon uptill March 31, 1996;

(c) whether less expenses have been incurred for the development and modernisation of Kandla in comparison to Visakhapatnam and Paradeep ports; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Outlays aggregating to Rs. 2858.53 crores have been provided for development and modernisation of major ports in the country during the five Annual Plans of 1992-93 to 1996-97.

(b) Expenditure of about Rs. 1370 crores has been incurred by Major Ports during 8th plan upto 31.3.1996.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The lesser expenditure at Kandia Port is due to lesser outlays provided depending on requirement of schemes and actual utilisation of outlays provided based on pace of implementation of schemes as compared to Visakhapatnam and Paradeep Ports.

### **Erosion of Ganges in West Bengal**

3779. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent erosion of Ganges in West Bengal specially in Nabadwip and Bhagwan Gola;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government of West Bengal has taken up implementation of one major anti-erosion scheme at Bhagwan Gola in the Murshidabad district at an estimated cost of Rs. 82 lakhs. For Nabadwip, no such scheme has so far been referred to the Centre for appraisal.

### **III Effects of Eximer Laser Eye Surgery**

3780. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of eximer laser for eye surgery for removal of spectacles can cause irreparable damage to the eyes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to educate people about the possible hazards of the technique?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

### **CBI Report on Irregularities in Open School**

3781. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI report on irregularities committed in open school case, has been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has not yet submitted its final report on the enquiry/investigation started by it regarding alleged financial irregularities in the case of National Open School.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Pak Foreign Minister's Willingness to Hold Talks**

3782. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Foreign Minister has expressed willingness to hold talks on Kashmir issue under the Simla accord; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Foreign Minister of Pakistan in his letter of felicitations to our External Affairs Minister on his assumption of office stated that he hoped that India and Pakistan would work together to resolve the outstanding issues between the two countries.

(b) External Affairs Minister in his reply said that India would endeavour to establish a relationship based on friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. He suggested that the officials of the two countries should meet soon to address bilateral issues. Pakistan's response is awaited.

[Translation]

#### **Pension Scheme for Ex-Servicemen**

3783. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have introduced or propose to introduce any pension scheme for the veteran ex-servicemen or for the widows of the soldiers of 'Azad Hind Fauz' who had fought for the country during the Second World War;

(b) whether several representation have been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide all those facilities to them, which are being provided to freedom fighter, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (e). Union Government has neither introduced nor propose to introduce any pension scheme for veterans of World War-II. Under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 widows of ex-INA personnel are eligible for pension if their husbands suffered minimum six months imprisonment/detention outside India while fighting against the British Regime for India's Independence.

2. Government have been receiving representation from time to time for grant of pension to World War-II veterans. The demand of the World War II Veterans for grant of pension was considered by the Committee on Remainder Problems of ex-Servicemen. The committee did not find the demand acceptable because pension could not be given without linkage to a minimum period of service.

3. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for grant of facilities to World War II Veterans at par with Freedom fighters.

#### **Medical Facilities**

3784. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Government have fixed a target to provide medical facilities to whole of the country by 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, whether according to a study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research, only 15% of health employees are available as per the requirement in the Primary Health Centres established by the Government in the country?

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government are in the position of achieving the target fixed; and

(e) if not, the time limit fixed for providing medical facilities to all the citizens in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Preventive, Promotive and curative services are provided country wide on a population basis. Planning Commission lays down year wise and level wise targets under Minimum Needs Programme of the States. For the 8th Plan the targets to be established so far are given in statement. At