

hostel at the Calicut Medical College in Kerala;

(b) whether lady students are now accommodated in staff quarters; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the construction of the second hostel?

**The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayar):** (a) Construction work for the main block of the hostel has already started.

(b) Yes.

(c) Construction is being expedited to the extent of availability of funds.

#### **Development of Roads in Hill Areas of Assam**

**3928. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:  
Shri Murli Manohar:**

Will the Minister of Planning and Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Study Team to report on the development of roads in the Hill areas of Assam in the fourth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received a copy of the report; and

(d) if so, the total expenditure involved on the Project?

**The Minister of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta):** (a) to (d). Development of roads in the Hill Areas of Assam has been considered by the Joint Centre-State Study Team headed by a Member of the Planning Commission. In the programme drawn up for the Hill Districts of Assam which involves an outlay of Rs. 70.50 crores for a full five year period, Rs. 20 crores have been proposed for road development. The proposals of the Team have been accepted by the Planning Commission.

#### **Rats as Human Food**

**3929. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:  
Shri Murli Manohar:**

Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the utility of rats as human

food as propounded recently by the Agriculture Minister of U.P.;

(b) whether Government are aware of the experiments made by the Japanese nutrition expert, Dr. Okudo, in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to study the utility of rats as human food?

**The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayar):** (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

#### **Braille Literature for Blind**

**3930. Shri M. P. Swamy:  
Shri Kasinatha Dorai:**

Will the Minister of Planning and Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a regional braille press at Madras for printing braille literature for the use of blind;

(b) if so, in what languages the braille literature will be printed at the above press; and

(c) the steps so far taken by Government for setting up the braille press at Madras?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Social Welfare (Shrimati M. Chandrasekhar):** (a) Yes, Sir. The press is proposed to be set up by the Government of Madras.

(b) In the major South Indian languages.

(c) Much of the equipment has been supplied to the State Government by UNICEF.

#### **Survey of Underground Water**

**3931. Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent UNESCO study which disclosed that almost one million cubic