

roads in the border areas of Himachal Pradesh in kilometers by the end of 31st March, 1969;

(b) how much of it was completed;

(c) if the target could not be achieved, the reasons thereof.

(d) the amount earmarked for the construction of roads in border areas of Himachal Pradesh during the Fourth Five Year Plan and what is the target in Kilometers; and

(e) the steps being taken to complete the target in time?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH):** (a) to (c). The immediate programme of construction of Border Roads Development Board in Himachal Pradesh includes the construction of about 730 KM of new roads and improvement of 690 KM of existing roads! tracks. By the end of March 1969, the achievement was as follows:—

**New roads—**654 KM of formation cutting of width varying from 8 to 20 ft.

**Improvement—**About 675 KM (as assessed) in existing roads.

(d) The programme of Border Roads Development Board is outside the Five Year Plans, and its budget is on an yearly basis.

(e) The progress of works is watched periodically. In the case of work entrusted to the General Reserve Engineer Force, additional resources are inducted if necessary. When PWD are unable to achieve progress relative to the target date of completion, change in agency is considered, taking into account the priority of the road concerned and the capacity of the GREF to take over and complete the work earlier.

**Appointment to High Posts of Politicians Defeated in Last General Elections**

4183. **SHRI MAHANT DIGVIJAI NATH:** Will the Minister of

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Politicians who lost their seats in the General Elections to either the State or Central Legislature, have appointed Ambassadors/High Commissioners;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of such persons who have been appointed to these high posts?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):** (a) to (c). Four Heads of Mission fall under the category mentioned in part (a) of the Question. In appointing eminent men from public life for diplomatic assignments abroad, the guide-line followed is broadly suitability for the assignments given to them and not their success or failure at elections.

**Exports by Public Sector**

4184. **SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR:** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of exports by public sector to newly developed or developing countries during the last three years and the amount of foreign exchange and earned; and

(b) the value of exports to Islamic countries during the above period and the amount spent on imports from them?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK):** (a) and (b). The information required is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

**Difficulties Faced by Haj Pilgrims**

4185. **SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister received any report on the 17th