

restoration of the earmarking of at least 10% funds each under Employment Assurance Schemes and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana for afforestation activities.

[Translation]

Lok Adalats

4651. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Lok Adalats organised and the number of cases settled therein in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to make efforts to organise more Lok Adalats in the country with a view to expedite the delivery of justice to people;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d): After the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, Lok Adalats are being organised throughout the country by the concerned State and District Legal Services Authorities. National Legal Services Authority monitors and supports Lok Adalats and has been from time to time requesting all the Chief Justices of the High Courts to organise as many Lok Adalats as possible and include therein more and more categories of cases for conciliatory settlement. The National Legal Services Authority has also requested Chief Justices (Patrons-in-Chief of State Legal Services Authorities) to establish permanent and continuous Lok Adalats in every district.

[English]

Condition of Jammu-Srinagar Highway

4652. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jammu-Srinagar Highway is in a bad shape and the traffic on it remains suspended for many days every year;

(b) if so, the number of days for which the traffic remained suspended every year during the past three years; and

(c) the cost involved on repairs and keep the road opened for traffic every year during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) Out of a total of 288 kms, 68 kms. of Jammu-Srinagar Highway is prone to heavy snow fall, land slides and avalanche every year. The road surface get damaged leading to the intermittent closure thereof requiring clearance of snow from November to March and clearance of land slides during monsoon. However, these damages are repaired immediately to keep the road in traffic worthy condition.

(b)	<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of days</u>
	1995-96	20
	1996-97	17
	1997-98	11

(c)	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount spent (Rs. in crores)</u>
	1995-96	12.00
	1996-97	17.77
	1997-98	16.51

[Translation]

Improvement in the Functioning of SEBs

4653. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the financial condition of the State electricity Boards in the country;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to bring improvement in the functioning of boards;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALM) : (a) As per the Statement of Accounts received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the commercial losses of all SEBs put together were Rs. 3018.19 crores (without subsidy) in 1993-94 and in 1995-96 the same increased to Rs. 6748.68 crores (without subsidy). The Poor financial condition of the SEBs is one of the critical problems facing the Indian power sector.