

**By-Pass from Surayapalem to Atkuru on NH-5 & 9**

4798. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received by the Ministry for a by-pass road from Surayapalem to Atkuru linking National Highways 5 & 9, to relieve congestion in Vijayawada city;

(b) the estimated cost of this proposal; and

(c) the response of the Government to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c): At present there is no proposal to construct a bypass road from Surayapalem to Atkuru linking National Highways 5 & 9 outside Vijayawada city. The three arms of national Highways radiating from Vijayawada for the reaches experiencing traffic congestion are being fourlaned. However, bypass projects if found viable may receive consideration under Build Operate and Transfer scheme.

[Translation]

**Criteria for Opening of Youth Hostels**

4799. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for opening youth hostels in the country; and

(b) the reasons for not providing such facility in the Mirzapur division of Uttar Pradesh so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) The Construction of Youth Hostel has been conceived as a joint venture between the Central & the State Governments while the Central Government bears the cost of construction, the State Government provides fully developed land free of cost, with adequate water and electric supply, approach road, boundary wall and staff quarters. On receipt on a formal viable proposal from the State Government, the same is considered in the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports. Selection of place for construction of Youth Hostel is done by the State Government keeping in view the following considerations :

- (a) Historical and cultural value;
- (b) Educational centre, State Capital;
- (c) Place of tourist importance, scenic beauty and hill station;
- (d) Place with offers facilities for Youth activities; and
- (e) Port of entry.

(b) Since no formal proposal from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for opening of Youth Hostel in the Mirzapur division has been received, no action has been taken so far.

[English]

**Allotment of Plots/Land by Kandla Port Trust**

4800. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kandla Port Trust has taken a decision to allot plots of land to the persons, who have lost their houses in the cyclone that devastated Kandla Port area on June 9, 1998; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Kandla Port Trust Board has taken an 'In Principle' decision to formulate a scheme for allotment of land admeasuring 25 sq. mtrs. to each of the cyclone affected families whose dwellings were lost in the cyclone, at a token annual ground rent of Rupee one and token development charges of Rupee one per plot.

**Maintenance of Historical Monuments in Maharashtra**

4801. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several historical monuments such as Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta caves in Maharashtra are in a very bad shape;

(b) if so, whether the Central Fund meant for maintenance, structural repairs etc. of these monuments is not being utilized properly; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The Centrally protected monuments in Maharashtra including Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta caves are in a good state of preservation. In addition to annual upkeep and maintenance, structural repairs, chemical conservation and environmental development are carried as needed on the basis of Archaeological norms.

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