

- (xi) A committee set up by this Ministry to look into the issues related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products has recommended specific measures to deal with this problem which has been referred to the State Government for their comments and necessary action.

Improvement in Implementation of Operation Blackboard & DPEP

4818. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the implementation of Operation Blackboard and the District Primary Education Programme;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps in this regard have been worked out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c): Launched in 1987-88, the scheme of Operation Blackboard was revised in 1993 to provide for third teacher and three class rooms in Primary schools with enrolment of more than 100 children. The scheme was also extended to Upper Primary Schools.

The report of the Working Group on Elementary Education for the Ninth Plan has recommended addition of two new components in Operation Blackboard to meet needs of girls at the upper primary stage and to improve school level supervision and management of primary schools. These entail provision of financial assistance to States for upper primary schools in Low Female Literacy Blocks and a Head-master in selected primary schools. Allocations for the Ninth Plan have not been finalised.

DPEP is an evolving programme and necessary amendments or modifications in the project parameters would be made as and when necessary based on the past learning experiences. A definite view in this regard has not yet been taken.

ISD, Fax and Telex Facilities in Maharashtra

4819. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for providing ISD, Fax and Telex facilities in the State especially in the rural areas:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c): No such proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for the provision of ISD, Fax and Telex facilities in State. However, STD facilities to all the exchanges in Maharashtra state shall be provided by the end of IXth Five Year Plan.

Level Crossing on National Highway

4820. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are eight level crossings on the National Highway from Calicut to Connanore;

(b) whether these level crossings are bottlenecks on the National highway which cause inordinate delay and inconvenience to road passengers;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to construct over bridges at these level crossings;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has made any request for the constructing over bridges at these points; and

(e) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The level crossings cause delay and inconvenience to the National Highway traffic.

(c) to (e): The State Government has proposed the following measures to solve the problem:

(i) Construction of road-over-bridge at Chorode in lieu of level crossing.

(ii) Construction of re-alignment at Quilandy, Chowva-Nadal to avoid 4 level crossings at Nandi, Chenkottukavu, Chova and Nadal.

(iii) Construction of Thalassery-Mahe and Calicut bypasses will avoid level crossings at Muzhappilangadu, Vengalam and Vengoli.