

(b) The estimated number of Rhinos in the park before flood as per 1995 census was 1250. As per the 1993 census, there were about 5483 animals in Kaziranga.

(c) An amount of Rs. 58.05 lakhs has been sanctioned for the rescue operations and details of utilisation of the amount have not been received from the State Government.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) For protection against poaching in the park, shoot at sight orders have been issued, paramilitary forces have been deployed and help of army is being taken for restoration work.

[Translation]

Fake Marksheets

182. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI
CHAUDHARI:
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether fake marksheets are being issued on a large scale in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether any persons involved in this racket have been arrested during the last one year;

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Proposal for Cross Country Highway Project

183. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI T.R. BAALU :
SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to build

cross country highway project linking Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silcher to Saurashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of States through which this cross country road is likely to pass;

(d) the total expenditure involved in this project and time fixed for its completion;

(e) whether any private participation has been worked out in this project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (f) The Honourable Prime Minister has announced a programme to widen national highways linking Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silcher to Saurashtra. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has been constituted to decide the routes and technical parameters thereof. The programme is at conceptual stage and hence no further details can be given at this stage.

Free and Compulsory Education

184. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI M. BAGA REDDY :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made a fresh assessment of the constitutional obligation to provide free and compulsory education upto the age of 14;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether difficulties are expected to be experienced in the implementation of this obligation; and

(d) if so, the fresh strategy being contemplated by the Government to meet this objective?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The Conference of State Education Ministers