

National Action Plan to deal with the incidents of trafficking of women and children and their sexual exploitation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children which forms part of the Report prepared by the Committee on Prostitution, Child Prostitutes and Children of Prostitutes includes Action Point grouped under Prevention, Trafficking, Awareness Generation and Social Mobilisation, Health Care Services, Housing, Shelter and Civic Amenities, Economic Empowerment, Legal Reforms and Law Enforcement, Rescue and Rehabilitation; and institutional machinery. The Central Ministries, State Governments and UT Administrations have been requested to implement the Plan of Action.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

National Highways in J & K

212. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the roads undertaken for development in J & K;

(b) the amount spent on them for their development during last three years;

(c) the number of days for which the National Highways to Kashmir Valley remain closed during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 and National Highway from Jammu to Leh remain closed during 1997-98, 1998-99; and

(d) the proposals to keep these roads clear throughout the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Ministry of Surface Transport is responsible for the development & maintenance of NH-I-A (Jammu-Srinagar-Uri) and NH-I-B (Batote-Kishtwar) in J & K.

(b) The amount spent on the development and maintenance of above mentioned highways during

the last three years are as under :

(Rs. crores)

| Year | Development works | Maintenance & Repairs |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1995-96 | 11.23 | 9.10 |
| 1996-97 | 17.79 | 5.12 |
| 1997-98 | 15.73 | 6.09 |

(c) The National Highway I-A (Jammu-Srinagar) and Srinagar-Leh road remained closed as under :-

| S.No. | Name of road | No. of days | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------|---------|
| | | 1997-98 | 1998-99 |
| 1. | Jammu-Srinagar (NH-I-A) | 11 days | 01 days |
| 2. | Srinagar-Leh Road | 192 days | 50 days |

(d) The road closures are due to land slides and heavy snow falls. Immediate steps are taken to blockages and to open these roads for traffic within shortest possible time.

[Translation]

Scholarship

213. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry provides scholarships annually for carrying out higher education/research activities in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the number of students getting scholarships, subject-wise, annually;

(c) whether in selection of students for scholarships any reservation is provided to SC/ST students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Ministry receives offers of scholarships and fellowships from a few countries under Cultural Exchange and other Programmes. Nominations against these offers, received from the donor countries, are being made by this Ministry. The final selection for awards rests with the donor countries. The selection for nominations is made on the basis of merit by Selection Committees constituted for the purpose.