

and shall adversely effect the rights of the State of Punjab and linked the issue with the final apportionment of assets and liabilities of Bhakra Nangal and Beas projects among the partner States.

State of Himachal Pradesh has also filed a Suit (Suit No. 2 of 1996) claiming higher share and supply of 12% free power from Bhakra Nangal and Beas projects in the Supreme Court. The matter is sub-judice.

At an official level meeting convened by the Ministry of Power in Chandigarh on 16-9-1998, and was attended by representatives of partners States, it was suggested that BBMB could consider according 'partnership' status to UT of Chandigarh on the lines of the partnership status granted to Himachal Pradesh without prejudice to legal rights and contentions of the parties concerned and without prejudice to the pending Suit filed by the HP Government before the Supreme Court.

At present BBMB is raising bills for this energy @ 34 P/kwh but UT of Chandigarh is releasing payment @ 05.63 P/kwh. On being declared partner, UT of Chandigarh will be charged proportionate net O & M expenses as is being done from other partners.

#### **Condition of Manipur National Highway**

3435. KUMARI KIM GANGTE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of National Highway in Manipur is very bad due to lack of its maintenance; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken for the maintenance of N.H. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of Higher Education Centres**

3436. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to set-up higher education centres like engineering colleges, centres for computer education etc. in the rural areas to enable the children of rural areas to get an opportunity of higher education; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) There is a significant increase in the number of Technical Institutions

established in the Private as well as Government Sectors during the recent past with the approval of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Majority of the Institutions in the Private Sector are located in the rural areas. Since the admission to such Institutions is based on merit, aspirants from the rural as well as urban areas are on equal footing in so far as admissions to such Institutions are concerned.

#### **Technical Education**

3437. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking any steps for the reconstruction/strengthening of the Technical Education Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for the expansion and improvement of the technical education in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of proposals received in this regard from the Government of Orissa and the proposals cleared out of these and pending with the Board ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The Government has established the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) by an Act of Parliament, namely, the AICTE Act 1987 for proper planning and co-ordinated development of the technical education system throughout the country. The AICTE has since notified Regulations aiming for qualitative as well as quantitative improvement of technical education at all levels in the country.

(e) The details of proposals received by the AICTE from the State Government of Orissa for starting new Colleges in various disciplines during the academic session 1999-2000 are as under :

Engineering (Degree)	32
Engineering (Diploma)	16
Pharmacy (Degree)	06
Pharmacy (Diploma)	02
Architecture (Degree)	01

[Translation]

#### **Amendment of Various Acts**

3438. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :