

erably. Nearly Rs. 1500 crores will be provided to the State in the Ninth Plan. The Central Government would provide the requisite additional assistance to restore militant damaged infrastructure.

National Highway I-A will be upgraded and strengthened. An outlay of Rs. 140 crores will be made available to Border Roads Organisation to undertake this task.

Mughal Road will be taken up and implemented on a priority basis at a cost of Rs. 150 crores, which will be shared equally between the Central Government and State Government.

As a special dispensation more towns in J&K will be brought under the Prime Minister's Integrated Poverty Eradication Programme.

Orders declaring Jammu as a B-2 Category City will be issued shortly.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already sent a high level technical team and in consultation with the State Government, a decision will be taken to start the Agricultural University at Jammu from the next year.

Some other proposals of the Memorandum given by the State Government need to be examined in detail in consultation with the respective departments of Government of India and need to be defined. However, I would like to once again state that availability of funds is not the main constraint or the critical issue. What is required is devising carefully worked out programmes and projects and their effective implementation so that the benefits of these programmes and projects reach the people. I would also lay stress on close monitoring of implementation so that the funds allocated are utilised purposefully.

There are certain other proposals relating to the facilities to be provided for return of migrants, etc. I am hopeful that the popular Government would be able to initiate proper measures to instill confidence in the migrants as well as take assistance of the local population so that migrants would be able to return to their homes in the Valley at the earliest. I would like to assure that financial constraints would not be allowed to come in the way of implementation of this.

The Central Government shares the concern of the State Government regarding provision of employment opportunities for the youth of the State. Special recruitment drives will continue to be made to ensure that youth of this state will be absorbed to the maximum extent possible in central establishments and even in private sector. However, more thrust has to be given to implement available programmes by encouraging people to take to self-employment. It would also be necessary to devise new programme for enhancement and upgradation of traditional skills, undertaking of new technologies, etc. The youth of the State are well known for their marketing and skills in salesmanship. Government would explore possibilities of earmarking some land for the setting up of specialised

industrial estates and shopping complexes inside and outside the State to provide self-employment opportunities.

However, progress on these fronts would pick up speed as normalcy on the law and order front improves. Some of the discredited elements, are disrupting the economic progress of the State by resorting to bandhs and hartals. Government cannot allow these activities to go unchecked. Economic progress and peoples well-being cannot be secured unless these activities are squarely faced. In dealing with these elements, it is necessary not only to approach it from the law and order point of view, but also deal with them politically.

I want to assure the people of the State that the Centre and State Government are one and will together deal with these special problems of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to reiterate that this is a national responsibility to bring about resolution as well as reconstruction of the torn economy of the State. This national endeavour should be approached in a non-partisan manner. The entire country is behind you.

[Translation]

Metalled Roads

661. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that no metalled roads, have been constructed in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Kairana-Muzzafarpur Constituency;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of total amount granted to Public Works Departments for repair of roads in the rural areas during the current years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Supply of Drinking Water In Metros

662. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand of drinking water in all the Metros in the country;

(b) the total shortfall in supply of water to the Metros;

(c) the steps taken to improve the water supply to the Metros;

(d) whether the World Bank has given any special project loans for improving the water supply; and