

(c) As far as repairs are concerned, urgent repairs have been carried out and the National Highways maintained in traffic worthy condition.

(d) and (e) A sum of Rs. 4 crores has been released so far to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Bridge over Yamuna in Allahabad, U.P.

3486. DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any amount has been sanctioned for construction of bridge over Yamuna river in district Allahabad of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the construction work of the said bridge is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The sanctioned amount is Rs. 100.36 crores.

(c) and (d) Supplementary feasibility studies have since been carried out. After completion of the detailed design and tendering process, the construction of the bridge is targetted to start in September, 1998.

[English]

Special Grant for Narmada Project

3487. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Union Government had decided to give special grant of Rs. 90 crores to Gujarat Government for Narmada Project;

(b) if so, the reasons that promoted Union Government to sanction special grant;

(c) whether the Gujarat Government has been asked to prepare three years time bound plan to complete the Sardar Sarovar Canal and distribution system up to Mahi; and

(d) if so, the present position of the canal and the distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Union Government has not provided any special grant of Rs. 90 crores to Gujarat for Narmada Project. However, Central loan assistance of Rs. 95 crores has been approved for Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme launched by the Government of India during 1996-97 with a view to expedite the completion of the Project.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the works of Narmada Main Canal for the Reach o to 264 Kilometres are in progress. The Works of distributories in varjous blocks are also in progress.

Standard of Education in MCD Primary Schools

3488. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Cash-strapped MCD for private role in primary education" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 14, 1997; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The said news item speaks of a suggestion for adoption/sponsorship of some Primary Schools functioning under Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) by Corporate Houses, Public Sector Undertakings, etc., in view of lack of adequate funds. The MCD have reported that no decision have been taken in the matter.

Visa for Indian Tourists

3489. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :

KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will te Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and United States of America share reciprocal arrangement for issuing visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has switched over to issue passport valid for ten years and twenty five years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether US has mooted a proposal for ten years visa for Indian tourists and travellers;

(f) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(g) the time by which this proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) On September 9, 1996 Government announced a new policy to issue passports for 20 years at a time. However, in view of the continued interest and demand for 10 year validity passports, this policy was modified and an option given to applicants to apply for either a 10 year validity passport on payment of the existing fee of Rs. 300 or a 20 year validity passport on payment of a fee of Rs. 600.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The United States has proposed on the basis of reciprocity, the maximum period of validity of business and tourist visas to be increased from 5 years to 10 years. Visas issued to applicants under 18 years of age would be limited to a maximum of 5 years. Both sides would have the discretion to issue visa for less than the maximum period of validity.

(g) The US proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Modernisation of Madarsa Education

3490. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the plan outlay made in Eighth Plan for the Scheme on modernisation of Madarsa education;

(b) the funds utilised during the plan period and the number of beneficiaries State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the low utilisation of funds;

(d) whether the Scheme would continue for the 9th Plan as well;

(e) whether any steps have been taken to publicise the Scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The allocation for Madarsa Education in the Eighth Plan is Rs. 1.00 crore. Total grant released upto 12.3.97 is Rs. 1.72 crores. Statewise details are given in the attached statement-I and II.

(d) Planning Commission have not finalised the Ninth Plan.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Copies of the scheme of 'Modernisation of Madarsa Education' and of a pamphlet were sent to Director of School Education/Higher Education, Chairman of Minority Commissions, State Education Secretaries members of National Council for Promotion of Urdu, etc. give wide publicity to the scheme.

Statement-I

(Amount in Rupees)

S.No.	Name of the State	Year			
		1993-94		1994-95	
		Amount released	No. of Madarsas	Amount released	No. of Madarsas
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 3,04,000/-	10	Rs. 11,69,600/-	40
2.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	Rs. 5,88,600/-	19
3.	Haryana	-	-	Rs. 1,52,000/-	5
4.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-
5.	Kerala	-	-	-	-
6.	Tripura	-	-	-	-
7.	West Bengal	-	-	-	-
8.	Assam	-	-	-	-
9.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-
10.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
11.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-
12.	Delhi	-	-	-	-
13.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-
14.	Bihar	-	-	-	-
15.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-
	Total	Rs. 3,04,000/-	10	Rs. 18,99,200/-	64