

the state and issue a passport within a reasonable time. A Passport Collection Centre is already functioning at Mangalore.

(f) Does not arise.

Ayurvedic College and Hospitals

2297. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals in the country at present;

(b) the total financial assistance provided to these colleges and hospitals during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to open new Ayurvedic college, and hospitals in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) As per information available there are 118 Ayurvedic colleges and 2136 Ayurvedic Hospitals in the country.

(b) The total financial assistance provided under Central Scheme for upgradation of P.G. Department and improving and strengthening of existing under Graduate colleges of ISM&H during the last two years is as under :

1994-95	-	114.92 lakhs
1995-96	-	236.17 lakhs

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Violation of Air Space

2298. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of violation of Indian air space by aircrafts of other countries, especially Pakistan, during 1995 and 1996;

(b) the measures taken to stop such intrusion in terms of both detection as well as defensive capacity;

(c) whether the cases of violation were brought to the notice of the countries concerned; and

(d) if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) During the years 1995 and 1996, the number of violations of Indian airspace by the aircraft of other countries was 22 and 12 respectively. Of these, 16 violations in 1995 and 9 violations in 1996 were by Pakistani aircraft.

(b) Appropriate air defence measures exist to check such violations. These are also reviewed from time to time.

(c) and (d) Such violations are taken up with the country concerned as and when considered appropriate.

Highway Ambulance Project

2299. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched Highway Ambulance Project recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and salient features of the project. funding arrangement, objective, coverage and target for the current year-extension plans etc;

(c) the details of National Road Safety Plan worked out for accident prone areas; and

(d) the details of action plan worked out to provide Road side amenities along the national highways during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no separate Road Safety Plan for accident prone areas of National Highways. However, various improvement works which have a bearing on road safety are taken up on a continuous basis alongwith other developmental works.

(d) Under the scheme of wayside amenities along National Highways, during the current year an estimate costing Rs. 62.50 lakhs have been sanctioned for providing passenger oriented wayside amenities at Kms. 439.0 on NH - 8 in Maharashtra.

Regional Offices of KVS

2300. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of regional offices of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan functioning in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a new Regional office in Kerala; and