

*[English]***Trade in Human Organs**

3887. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the illicit trade in human kidneys with Arab countries;

(b) whether the Government have made a thorough inquiry into the modus operandi practised by the traders;

(c) if so, the number of traders found involved in this trade; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop this illicit trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Reports about trade in human organs and exploitation of poor persons have appeared from time to time in various press reports. These have been highlighted at different fora.

(b) The attention of the State Governments concerned is drawn to the reports received and they are asked to institute inquiry and take stringent action under law. The powers for institution and enforcement are with the State Governments.

(c) Specific details of the cases and their present stage of investigation will be collected and laid on the table of the House.

(d) In order to regulate the removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and to prevent commercial dealings in human organs, the Government has enacted the Transplantations of Human Organs Act, 1994 which came into force w.e.f. 4.2.1996 in the State of Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra and all Union Territories. The Act has so far been adopted in ten States and Andhra Pradesh has its own Human Organs Act in this regard. The Central Government has been repeatedly requesting the remaining State Governments for early adoption of this Act.

**Mid-Day-Meal Scheme**

3888. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme has been started in the schools of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, commonly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, the Government of J & K is providing hot cooked meals of calorific value equivalent to 100 gms. of rice per school day to students of primary classes (I-V). The coverage of the programme is as under:

| Year    | No. of blocks | Students covered | Foodgrains (Rice) allocated |
|---------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1995-96 | 84            | 4.12 lakh        | 7,521 MTs.                  |
| 1996-97 | 121           | 6.20 lakh        | 14,060 MTs.                 |

(c) Does not arise.

**Effect of Mosquito Mats**

3889. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research or study had been undertaken by Indian Council of Medical Research on the effect of mosquito mats on the health of the people;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that people are suffering from the respiratory problems because of the constant use of these mats; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to protect the people from the harmful effects of these mats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). No toxic effects on human beings have been reported with the use of mosquito mats. However, long-term effects of exposure to smoke from coils/mats on human beings, especially infants, warrant further studies.

**Facilities on National Highways in Maharashtra**

3890. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have submitted proposals for upgradation of State Highways into

National Highways, and also sought revision of existing formula for release of financial assistance from the Central Road Fund for undertaking major repairs on the National Highways and strengthening the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof and details of action taken/proposed to be taken during the current year to meet the priority needs in Transportation sector in Maharashtra; and

(c) whether the National Highway Authority have formulated a plan in coordination with the Petroleum Ministry to set up service centres on National Highways to meet the requirement of vehicles; and

(d) if so, the details of the centres to be set up during the current year on National Highways in Maharashtra with locations and facilities proposed to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 11 proposals aggregating to a length of 4792 Km have been received from the State Government of Maharashtra, but due to paucity of funds none of the state roads could be declared as National Highways. Augmented Central Road Fund is yet to be implemented.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### National Waterways No. 1 and No. 2

3891. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the major stretch of river Ganga and river Brahmaputra were declared as National Waterways No.1 and No.2 in 1986 and 1988 respectively and that while the Ganga is still to be made navigable, the cargo movement in Brahmaputra has substantially come down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the steps taken by the Government to make these rivers navigable to create an alternative mode of transport in these corridors; and

(c) if not, the cargo movement, year-wise in tonnes from 1980 to 1995 in each of the two rivers?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Allahabad-Haldia stretch (1620 kms) of Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system and Sadiya-Dhubri stretch (891 kms.) of river Brahmaputra have been declared as National Waterways in 1986 and 1988 respectively. The Ganga between Haldia and Patna is navigable for vessels with draught upto 1.8 meter for 300

days in a year. In the stretch Haldia-Farakka, vessels upto 1.8 meter draught can navigate round the year. As regards the cargo movement in the river Brahmaputra, there has been lesser movement of cargo in the recent past.

(b) The main reasons identified for lower movement in the river Brahmaputra are the lack of night navigational and terminal facilities and the inadequate cargo support. The Inland Waterways Authority of India has planned, in the near future, activities such as providing of terminals at Tezpur, Dibrugarh/Neamati, provision of 24 hours navigation and extension of the fairway with 2 meters depth upto Dibrugarh in National Waterway No.2. During high water period, the waterway No.1 between Patna and Allahabad is open for traffic. However, in order to make it navigable round the year, bed regulation activities, such as dredging, bandalling and provision of terminal facilities are proposed to be included during the 9th Five Year Plan, phasing of which would depend on availability of cargo and funds.

(c) As submitted in reply to para (a) above, the National Waterway No. 1 and 2 were declared in 1986 and 1988 respectively and as such the details of cargo movement in these stretches are furnished as under:-

| Year    | National Waterway No.1<br>(the Ganga) | National Waterway No.2<br>(the Brahmaputra) |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---|
|         |                                       | (lakhs Tonnes)                              |
| 1986-87 | 2.35                                  | 1   |
| 1987-88 | 1.97                                  | -   |
| 1988-89 | 2.17                                  | 0.56  |
| 1989-90 | 0.35                                  | 0.39  |
| 1990-91 | 3.25                                  | 0.38  |
| 1991-92 | 2.57                                  | 0.14  |
| 1992-93 | 2.61                                  | 0.28  |
| 1993-94 | 1.93                                  | 0.32  |
| 1994-95 | 6.22*                                 | 0.13  |

\*Includes cargo moved by private operators.

#### Amount for Protection from Erosion by Brahmaputra

3892. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA:  
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: