

the latter from proceeding with their construction. However, the Union Government has not given investment clearance to any such project.

[Translation]

#### Grants to Sports Authority of India

3022. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided in the form of grants or otherwise to the Sports Authority of India during the last three years; and

(b) the manner in which the amount so provided is monitored ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) During the last three years, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has been provided the following amount in the form of Grants or otherwise:

Sl.No.	Year	Amount
1.	1994-95	Rs. 42,62,98,000/-
2.	1995-96	Rs. 41,26,00,000/-
3.	1996-97	Rs. 47,81,23,000/-

(b) the Accounts of the Sports Authority of India are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and its Annual Report and Audited Accounts are laid on the tables of both the Houses of Parliament. As such, the amount provided to SAI is properly monitored by a competent authority.

[English]

#### Bypass on N.H.-17

3023. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the work at present of bypass at Verna on National Highway-17 in Goa;

(b) the name of the party to whom the work has been awarded with the estimated cost; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The work of bypass at Verna on National Highway 17 in Goa stands sanctioned for Rs. 313.34 Lacs.

(b) The tenders have been called and the lowest tender received is of M/s Peter B. Colaco & Sons.

(c) The date by which the work is likely to be completed is 31.7.1999.

[Translation]

#### Literacy Drive in Villages

3024. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the works being executed for promoting education and literacy in villages;

(b) whether the Government are satisfied that the above works are going on satisfactorily; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the 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) The Total Literacy Campaigns which is the principal strategy of the National Literacy Mission is at eradication of illiteracy of the entire targetted non-literate population in whole country without any distinction between urban and rural areas. Keeping in view the fact that rural literacy rate is 44.45% a specific scheme of Rural Functional Literacy Project is being implemented in the North Eastern States, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir where the campaign mode approach cannot be adopted on account of logistic reasons. As many as 65 projects are in operation under this scheme.

(b) and (c) Department of Education conducted a status-cum-impact Evaluation of the Total Literacy Campaigns which revealed the strengths and weaknesses of the programme. On the basis of the recommendations of the committee measures have been taken to strengthen and improve literacy programmes. The steps, inter alia, include involving of Panchayati Raj Institutions more intimately in implementation of literacy campaigns and revitalising the monitoring mechanism to ensure effective implementation of Adult Education programme with a view to achieving the national goal of eradication of illiteracy in the country.

#### Cut in Pay Scales of Historians

3025. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Historical Research proposes to slash the salaries of some historians;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of historians whose salaries are to be slashed and whether they include such historians who have since retired; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be against such retirees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Historical Research, on discovering that the scales of pay granted in 1992 to some of its officials were not in conformity with the scales prescribed by the Government, withdrew such scales and replaced them with appropriate new scales

(c) and (d) the decision to revert to the approved scale of pay covers 11 persons only, 3 of whom have since retired. No recoveries of the amounts drawn is being made.

[English]

#### Defence Personnels in Pak Jails

3026. SHRI B.K. GADHVI :  
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3384 on March 17, 1997 and state the steps taken by the Government to seek release of the defence personnel languishing in jails during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : The Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The matter was also raised during Indo-Pak Foreign Ministers' meeting in April, 1997.

#### LPG Petrol/Diesel Dealers

3027. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of advertisements issued by the Government for the appointment of LPG/Petrol/Diesel dealers during the last three years; and

(b) the details thereof, State-wise and the present status of each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) As reported by the Oil Marketing Companies, 1448 petrol/diesel retail outlet dealerships and 1141 LPG distributorships were advertised by them in different parts of the country during the last three years i.e. 1994-95 to

1996-97. Out of them, selections have been made in respect of 342 retail outlet dealerships and 156 LPG distributorships. The remaining proposals are pending for selection and will be taken up as soon as the selection process is reactivated.

#### Quality of Food in Indian Airlines Flights

3028. SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of food being served in breakfast, lunch and dinner during Indian airlines flights is going down day by day as experienced by the passengers during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the quality of food will be improved as per the standards of International Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### SCAM

3029. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether fraud is being committed in the name of women and child welfare;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However in some cases complaints from various sources are received by the Government from time to time against the functioning of the NGOs working in the field of women and child development. In such cases the matter is got enquired into through the concerned State Government as well as the Government's own agencies. In cases where enquiries revealed misuse of funds by NGOs, further grants are