

handling of certain azodyes which are detrimental to health is under consideration and objections from the public against the proposed move have been invited in accordance with the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986. A decision in the matter will be taken keeping all the factors under consideration.

Bridge

3395. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct bridge over creek at Kiranpani joining two States viz. Maharashtra and Goa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) There is no proposal to construct the bridge in question at present under any of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sports Activities in Bihar

3396. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to organise any training camp at National level with a view to encourage sports activities in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) National level training camps are organised at the various centres of Sports Authority of India only for training National teams for their participation in international events.

[English]

Ayurvedic Treatment

3397. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any step during Eighth Five Year Plan to promote Ayurvedic treatment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to promote Ayurvedic treatment and health care during Ninth Five Year Plan.

(d) if so, the scheme proposed thereon; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). During the Eighth Plan period a separate Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy for the promotion and development of these systems has been established. Within a modest Eighth Plan outlay of Rs. 88 crores, financial assistance has been provided to Ayurvedic Colleges for infrastructure, for plantation of medicinal plants and for inservice training. The National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, Institute of Post Graduate training and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapith, Delhi and Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha have also been assisted. The work for developing pharmacopoeial standards has been continued.

(c) to (e). For addressing the needs of Ayurveda sector adequately the Working Group for ISM and H for Ninth Plan has recommended an outlay of Rs. 1840 crores. Some of the proposals setting up of treatment facilities at district level infrastructure support for block level dispensaries, Ayurvedic health care to beneficiaries under the Central Govt. Health Scheme, support to NGOs for preventive health, large scale Vanaspati Vans on wastelands, meaningful assistance to Ayurvedic Colleges and Research/Development issues and areas of concern.

RPO Ahmedabad

3398. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Regional Passport Office (RPO), Ahmedabad is presently located in a highly congested place in the city;

(b) whether it is a fact that a decision was taken by the Government to shift the office and a sum of Rs. 85 lakhs was sanctioned for the construction of a new building for the RPO;

(c) whether it is also a fact that neither the RPO was shifted nor the construction of new RPO building was undertaken; and

(d) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of Government's policies and action proposed by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). In view of inadequate facilities in the existing building, a decision was taken to shift the Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad to a new building being constructed as an office-cum-residential complex on a plot of land acquired at a cost of Rs. 77.77.726/- from the Municipal Corporation, Ahmedabad. The estimated cost of the project as per 1993 estimates is Rs. 3.05.96.000. As per Government practice the construction work for the project has been handed over to the C P W D Ahmedabad and construction has commenced.

Old Heritage Havelis

3399 SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Culture has prepared any plan for preserving/upkeeping the old heritage havelis in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such havelis identified by the Government in each State;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the efforts being made by the Government of Gujarat to retrieve such havelis in Patan, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the financial assistance sought by the State Government and acceded to by the Union Government on this account;

(e) whether the Government propose to take over such havelis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f). Question does not arise.

Only University in a State

3400. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for development and building up infrastructure of the only University in the State has been submitted by the Government of Tripura;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether there is any contemplation to convert the State University into a Central University; and

(d) 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) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indo-Iran Initiative on Afghanistan

3401. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Iran have made any joint initiative to stop civil strife in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Foreign Ministers of India and Iran have discussed the supply of arms by foreign countries to Afghanistan; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d). As part of a continuing process of exchange of views on issues of regional and international concern, India and Iran have held discussions on the situation in Afghanistan. India participated in a regional conference called by Iran on Afghanistan on October 29-30, 1996, in Tehran. The conference called for the immediate cessation of violence, armed hostilities and an end to all foreign interference in Afghanistan.

[English]

Graduates in Industrial Chemistry

3402. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate number of candidates who complete B.Sc. degree in Industrial Chemistry in the country, State-wise;

(b) the gap between demand and supply of such graduates;

(c) the opportunities for graduates in Industrial Chemistry in public, private and Government sector; and

(d) the time by which these candidates are proposed to be covered by apprenticeship Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.