

**SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :** Sir, many kinds of apprehensions are there. So far as this particular issue is concerned, normally the I.I.Ts. used to send the question papers just one day before the examination.

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE :** That is enough for them.

**SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :** But this time, in view of the May Day holiday and as there was a *Bandh* call for another day, the question papers were despatched two days before the examination to Patna and Lucknow. The Government is not in a position to say whether the question papers have been leaked from those particular centres or not. Unless the investigation is over it cannot be said that the question papers were leaked from that centre itself. This is a matter of concern for everybody and particularly the students and parents who have really undergone serious mental and financial problems because the students have to appear in the examination for the second times, and then the time is lost to them and all that. That is why the Government have directed them to hold an inquiry. The I.I.T. authorities are also shocked as to how this could happen. It has never happened in the past thirty years. The credibility of I.I.Ts. is also their concern. That is why they are also working for foolproof measures so that such thing does not happen in future.

So far as the re-examination in Delhi College of Engineering is concerned, actually the question paper was not leaked. In fact, from one student it was found that along with the question paper, the answer sheet was also tagged. That was how this was leaked. There were also some printing errors in the question papers. That is why the One-Man Committee which investigated the matter recommended that it should be cancelled and re-examination should be held.

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :** Sir, he has not answered the second part as to whether they are considering holding the preliminary examination or not.

**MR. SPEAKER :** That is a suggestion. I think the Government will certainly note down that suggestion.

**SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :** Yes sir.

**MR. SPEAKER :** In fact, both your questions were not questions but they were suggestions - one for the investigating agency and the other for the Government.

[Translation]

**SHRI VIJAY GOEL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident in I.I.T. may have taken place for the first time but the attention of the Union Government must have been drawn towards rest of the Universities, where this leakage takes place time and again. When the examinations were held in I.I.T. again, by that time some students had taken admission at other places. Now those students want that they must get admission in I.I.T. again. It seems to me that there is mismanagement in filling the seats being vacated by them. Whether the

Government will set up a grievance cell for this, which will ensure that admissions in I.I.T. are given to genuine students because of the re-examination conducted after the leakage of paper? I have been putting questions on this issue for the last three sessions, which is very important one-the question that tutorial classes are not being conducted in Delhi University. All the three times the reply came that information is being collected. Due to this the private coaching phenomena is increasing rapidly. Whether the hon'ble Minister will reply as to why this is not being replied to for the last three sessions. A lecturer in Delhi University has to take 18 classes, out of these, he is not taking nine classes officially. That is why I want information on these 2 points from the Minister.

[English]

**MR. SPEAKER :** That is a different subject.

**SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :** Sir, I think both the question are in the form of suggestion and the Government has taken note of them.

[Translation]

#### Construction of National Highways/Bridges

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\*164. **SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE :**  
**SHRI DATTA MEGHE :**

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of National Highways and Bridges taken up for construction during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State wise;

(b) whether the work undertaken on these highways/bridges has since been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the projects under construction are likely to be completed?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) The details indicating the position are given in the annexure enclosed.

(c) Development of National Highways is a continuous process. Some of the on going works have been delayed due to difficulty in land acquisition, delay in shifting of utilities, change of scope due to site conditions, unprecedented floods, contractual failures

and problems, legal disputes, stay order granted by courts and non-availability of sufficient funds, etc.

(d) Works in progress, being in different stages of construction, will get completed in phases upto year 2000 or so.

#### Annexure

Statewise List showing position of National Highway works in progress/completed during Eighth Five Year Plan.

S.No.	State	No. of works in progress during Eighth Plan	No. of works completed during Eighth Plan
1.	Andhra Pradesh	220	154
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	4
3.	Assam	159	79
4.	Bihar	206	119
5.	Chandigarh	6	2
6.	Delhi	21	14
7.	Goa	50	24
8.	Gujarat	246	160
9.	Haryana	76	49
10.	Himachal Pradesh	175	95
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2
12.	Karnataka	130	59
13.	Kerala	131	74
14.	Madhya Pradesh	183	97
15.	Maharashtra	260	170
16.	Manipur	94	54
17.	Meghalaya	119	86
18.	Nagaland	14	7
19.	Orissa	215	120
20.	Pondicherry	8	2
21.	Punjab	96	66
22.	Rajasthan	176	92
23.	Tamil Nadu	230	143
24.	Uttar Pradesh	255	164
25.	West Bengal	187	105
Total		3275	1941

[Translation]

SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is completing fifty years of independence. In this country Tribal areas are still underdeveloped. There,

tribals are not getting the benefits due to them because of lack of roads to reach their areas. Due to lack of roads, development could not take place there. When you accord approval to any of National Highway or sanction money for this purpose, whether you put any condition on states that the National Highways passing through these undeveloped areas be completed on priority basis.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the question which the learned Member has originally asked is only general in nature. Now, he is asking a specific question whether any amount has been allotted to *adivasi* areas. If a specific question is asked now, then, I require a notice.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : In reply to the question, the Minister has said that in the Eighth Five Year Plan the target was of 3275 works, out of that 941 works have been completed. Rest of the works will be completed by 2000. The reasons for non completion of works in Eighth Five Year Plan as explained by the Minister were non-acquisition of land, pendency of legal cases, stay orders given by courts and non-availability of sufficient funds. But it has also been said that these works will be completed by the year 2000 A.D. I would like to ask the Minister whether these hurdles would be removed by the year 2000 A.D. and remaining works would be completed?

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the bottlenecks are there. We have passed the Land Acquisition Act. We are taking steps on the land side also. We are also speeding up all the other areas to the effect that everything will be over by the year 2001.

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : The Minister has mentioned all the difficulties. It is all right. But what are the steps being taken? You say that you have passed the Land Acquisition Act, but certainly you are not going to make it better as delay in shifting of utilities, change of scope, unprecedented floods, contractual failures and non-availability of funds etc. are there. Do you have enough funds? What is the infrastructure that you want to build in this country? What have you done during the Eighth Plan? Have you surrendered any funds during the Eighth Plan? How many new National Highways you have got in the Eighth Plan? What is your objective for the Ninth Plan? Are you going to bring in new National Highways?

SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN : With regard to funds, the hon. Member and the House are fully aware of the fact that in the First Plan, the budgetary support was 1.4 per cent and in the Eighth Plan, it was 0.6 per cent. But anyway, we are banking upon the Resolution passed by the House on a question of 5 per cent cess on diesel and petrol. That matter is still pending with the Cabinet.

If it is released, I will be able to give pronouncements with regard to National Highways. Otherwise, as far as the present position of funds is concerned, I could not pronounce any new National Highway. We hope that it will be cleared by the Cabinet. We will be able to say something about National Highways only after it is cleared by the Cabinet.

SHRI B.R. PATIL : Regarding development of National Highways, the hon. Minister has said in his reply that the on-going works have been delayed due to difficulty in land acquisition etc. I would like to put a specific question regarding National Highway No. 13 between Bijapur and Bangalore. It also touches Chitradurga where National Highway No. 4 is already there. Due to non-availability of funds, about 100 kilometres of road is in a very bad condition and every day thousands of vehicles are moving on that road.

Sir, this road had been opened to public traffic for the last 11 years. In spite of the request made by the Government of Karnataka, sufficient funds have not been provided to National Highway No. 13. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to provide sufficient funds for completion of another 100 kilometres which is in a very bad condition.

SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the main question is general in nature, but a specific question has been asked regarding a particular State. Therefore, I require a separate notice.

#### Resource Crunch in Defence Forces

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\*165. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :  
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the defence forces have been facing resource crunch to meet its current and projected requirements and whether the Army Chief has invited the attention of Government to the shortage of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the requirement of funds for the defence forces?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Allocation to Defence is made from within the overall resource availability keeping in view requirements of national security and other sectors of the economy. Currently, a total of Rs. 32000 crores have been provided to the Defence forces in BE 1997-98 to meet their essential

maintenance and modernisation needs. In addition, Rs. 3620 crores have also been provided for meeting the expected liability on account of the recommendations of Vth Pay Commission. The Government stands committed to adequately provide any additional requirement of capital expenditure during the course of the year.

(c) A detailed exercise has been carried out by the Ministry of Defence in the recent past in consultation with the Service Hqrs. to assess the essential fund requirements of the Defence Services. This is currently under active consideration of the Government.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation is very piquant with the Government that the reply has no relevance with the question which is :

[English]

"whether the Defence Forces have been facing resource crunch to meet its current and projected requirements and whether the Army Chief has invited the attention of the Government to the shortage of funds;"

[Translation]

It has not been mentioned anywhere. The fact remains that the Army Chief of our country wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister informing him that the army was facing economic crisis which had been adversely affecting the defence capabilities of the country. He has drawn the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to the fact that the entire world knows about that but the Government did not give the reply to that. Whether he had drawn their attention or not? If he has drawn the attention then in what way? Nothing has been mentioned about the economic crisis they have been facing. No reply is being given by the Government. It has been mentioned in the Budget data that 36000 crore rupees have been granted. What new thing the Government has given? The reply to the question which we had raised is not there in his reply. The question is something else and the reply is something else. It is an amazing happening. I would like to know through you if the Army Headquarters had asked for 12666.75 crore rupees for modernisation and reinforcing the equipment supplies whereas the Ministry sanctioned 10024.90 crore rupees only. The Finance Ministry sanctioned 7357 crore rupees which was almost fifty percent of the projected requirement of the Army. The fifty percent was sanctioned by the Finance Ministry and the hon. Finance Minister gave the statement that he would sanction whatever amount is asked for Defence. What is this? This is the report of the Standing Committee and the entire House has recommended that this amount should be received by you. It has also been mentioned in it there is the