

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received in four metro cities i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai during the last two years and the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Terrorists attack on Military in Assam

1808. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the terrorists have launched attacks on the military in Assam during the last three months;

(b) if so, whether some soldiers have lost their lives in above attacks;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government have taken any action on it as yet;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (e) In the recent past a number of incidents have taken place in Assam in which Security Forces have been targetted by militants. During the past three months, 25 Army personnel have been killed and 24 injured in such attacks. The Army has been undertaking counter insurgency operations in the State in conjunction with para military forces. During this period, in encounters with the Army 41 militants/suspects were killed and 755 militants/suspects apprehended. The operations are still continuing.

[English]

By Pass on N.H. 31

1809. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received complaints from MP stating that authorities concerned with construction of by pass on National Highway No. 31 from Falakata to Pundibari in West Bengal and a bridge over River Torsha have been misleading him;

(b) whether the main delay is due to the non-providing of funds regularly to State Government for this project, if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the details of funds provided, year-wise;

(c) whether this type of delay in progress has doubled/trippled the cost of project, which is in other words loss of Government revenue and avoidable increase of exchequer on Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay and action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Some Members of Parliament have written for the early completion of this project.

(b) Funds are allocated to States on Lump sum basis depending on overall availability of funds for NH Sector and work-wise distribution is left to the State Government. Allocation of funds, including Externally aided projects, during the last five years to the Government of West Bengal vis-a-vis fund allotted to this work by State Government is given below :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) Allocation of fund to Govt. of West Bengal	(Rs. in lakhs) Funds allotted to the work by State Government
1993-94	3500.00	127.57
1994-95	3987.00	203.62
1995-96	3810.00	577.20
1996-97	3608.00	543.22
1997-98 (Amount allocated)	8200.00	700.00 (likely)

(c) and (d) Road work in realignment is progressing as per target. Slow progress of the bridge is due to some dispute on escalation of rates between the Contractor and the State PWD. State Government has been advised suitably to sort out the dispute to expedite the construction of the bridge.

Allocation by NLM

1810. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Literacy Mission has sanctioned Rs. 4.47 crores to Guntur District for its post literacy programme of phase-I and total literacy drive of phase-II;

(b) if so, whether Guntur is the only district in Andhra Pradesh or in the country to get the amounts proposed by the administration and sanctioned by the NLM;

(c) whether the Guntur District has achieved the literacy better than any other districts in the State; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the amount is likely to be spent and the total literacy proposed to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The Project Approval Committee of the National Literacy Mission Authority which considered the Post Literacy proposal and cleared it in principle to cover

3.25 lakhs neo-literates at a per learner cost of Rs. 49.97 per year for a period of two years, which works out to Rs. 3.25 crores only.

However, an adhoc grant of Rs. 15 lakhs only so far has been released. The District Collector has since submitted a detailed revised pruned estimates as per the direction of the NLMA. The final grant will be based on the approved estimates.

(b) Post Literacy proposals are expected to be submitted by the District Administration as soon as 25% of the targeted group under Total Literacy Campaign or 50000 persons reach the level of Primer-II as part of the literacy campaign. Every district which attains this level accordingly submits the proposal for the consideration of the PAC of NLMA. Guntur district which fulfilled this norm submitted the proposal under PLP. There are 195 such projects which have so far been sanctioned in the country and in 19 districts in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The main object of the scheme is to eradicate illiteracy in the area of operation and there is no comparison of performance between the districts. The following position reveals the performance in the Guntur districts :

Targeted coverage	-	570873
Enroled	-	420414
Completed Pr. I	-	361178
still in Pr. I	-	3396
completed Pr. II	-	295402
still in Pr. II	-	25916
completed Pr. III	-	260403
still in Pr. III	-	10167

(d) The grant will be utilised towards running of 6500 Akshara Pragathi Kendras; training cost; monitoring and evaluation; environment building; office administration, transport charges etc. as per the norms approved by NLMA.

Tourism Development Programmes

1811. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has given a suggestion that in order to achieve the targets of attracting 50 lakh tourists by the turn of the century, India would have to become selective in its approach and improve its tourism development programmes;

(b) if so, the details of measures suggested by FICCI in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have accepted the suggestions made by the FICCI; and

(d) if so, the extent to which they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has given a number of suggestions on different occasions for tourism development in the country. These include adoption of a selective approach for increasing the foreign exchange earnings, provision of incentives like allocation of land at concessional rate for tourism industry, amendment of land Ceiling Act, inclusion of tourism in the Concurrent List, etc. Some of the items have been discussed in the State Tourism Minister's Meeting held in June 1997. Those items which fall within the jurisdiction of the States have been referred to them.

ONGC and Oil

1812. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to compensate Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited for giving some of their fields to private sector, in 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rate of cess and royalty being paid on oil and gas explored from small and medium sized discovered fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(c) For the 5 medium-sized and 13 small-sized fields, for which the Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) have been signed, the cess and royalty payable as per the PSCs for crude is Rs. 900/- tonne and Rs. 481/- tonne respectively. For Natural Gas royalty is payable at an advalorem rate of 10% and no cess is payable.

[Translation]

Barrage Over Yamuna

1813. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the time since when the project for the construction of a barrage over Yamuna in Agra submitted by the Uttar Pradesh Government is pending with the Union Government;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the Governor of Uttar Pradesh had laid the foundation stone of this project during the President's Rule in 1996;

(c) if so, the reasons for not clearing this project;