

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any procedural problems exist in establishing the Delimitation Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) No. Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per existing provisions of the Constitution, fresh delimitation can be taken only after the publication of figures of the first census taken after the year 2000. In the meeting of leaders of various political parties held on 22nd May, 1998, it was felt that as the year 2000 is close by, fresh delimitation may be taken as per existing provisions of the Constitution in this regard.

Full Time Programmes in LPT Centres

692. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to provide full time programmes in the Low Power Transmission Centres not having such facilities;

(b) whether the L.P.T. at Martandom of Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu would be provided with full time programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Provision of full time programmes in the LPT centres not having such facilities is linked to sanction and deployment of full complement of staff at these centres. Sanction and deployment of requisite staff at these centres including Martandom of Kanyakumari district is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Rihand Hydro-Electric Power Project in U.P.

693. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh has 15 per cent share in the electricity being generated at Rihand Hydro-Electric Power project in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the allotted share of electricity is not being supplied to Madhya Pradesh by Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether there has been a contract between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh that Madhya Pradesh would be compensated financially at the settled rate for not being supplied its share of electricity;

(d) if so, whether this loss is being compensated;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Union Government would issue any instructions for the payment of compensation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir, Madhya Pradesh has a 15% share in Rihand Hydro Electric Project.

(b) and (c) Due to shortage of power, Uttar Pradesh has been unable to supply to Madhya Pradesh.

(d) and (e) According to the information furnished by Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, the outstanding amount payable upto September 1997 was Rs. 29.91 crores.

(f) and (g) The time frame for settling the outstanding dues will have to be decided by the two State Governments.

[English]

Employment to SCs/STs in the Ministry

694. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes provided employment in her Ministry and its allied offices during the last two months;

(b) whether the quote reserved for SCs and STs in these Departments have been fulfilled; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Child Welfare Centres in Bihar and Maharashtra

695. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

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

(a) the number of child welfare centres opened in backward and tribal areas of Bihar and Maharashtra during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any foreign aid is being extended to the States for these welfare centres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) There is no Central or Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which Child Welfare Centres are functioning. However, for welfare and development of children in tribal and backward regions, 598 projects in Bihar and 326 projects in Maharashtra were sanctioned upto Eighth Five Year Plan under Centrally Sponsored Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. Apart from that 177 Creches, 230 Centres for Early Childhood Education and 159 Centres under Bahwadi Nutrition Programme were functioning in Bihar. In Maharashtra, 1444 Creches and 957 Centres under Bahwadi Nutrition Programme were functioning.

(b) and (c) The World Bank Assistance to the tune of Rs. 76.29 crores was available for 210 ICDS Projects in Bihar during Eighth Five Year Plan. No World Bank Assistance was available for Maharashtra during Eighth Five Year Plan. The support from UNICEF was available for supply of equipment and material such as jeeps, baby weighing scales, projectors, etc.

[English]

Construction of Bridges and National Highways in West Bengal

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

(a) the bridges and National Highways constructed in West Bengal during Eighth Five Year Plan and to be constructed during Ninth Plan;

(b) whether the work undertaken on these bridges and National Highways is behind the scheduled time;

(c) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay; and

(d) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) 1. Eighth Five Year Plan:

(i) **Bridges** : Construction of 12 Nos of bridges have been completed during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(ii) **Roadworks** : In addition to works of miscellaneous nature such as replacement of culverts, improvement of riding quality etc., four laning of 77.4 km length of NHs and construction of one bypass by Public Works Department and improvement of 23 km. to intermediate lane by Border Roads Organisation were undertaken.

2. Ninth Plan:

(i) **Bridges** : 28 Nos of bridges with estimated cost of about Rs. 84.65 crore are proposed to be taken up for replacement/reconstruction.

(ii) **Roads**: About 34 Nos of Improvement works falling in different categories such as widening to two lanes and four lanes including strengthening of existing pavement inclusive of the works of miscellaneous nature such as improvement of riding quality, providing hard shoulder with estimated cost of Rs. 203.50 crore are proposed to be taken up.

(b) Yes Sir, construction of few bridges is running behind schedule.

(c) and (d) The delay in case of bridges is due to some contractual problems. Works are reviewed periodically and the State Government is being continuously pursued to remove the bottlenecks and settle the contractual issues leading to early completion of the project.

Financial Assistance for Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation

697. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation is running into heavy losses for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Government to Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The details are as under:-

Year	Loss (Rs. in Crores)
1995-96	3.17
1996-97	136.24
1997-98 (R.E.)	114.78

Reasons for losses are as under :-

(i) Operations on uneconomic obligatory routes;

(ii) Operations on routes falling on bad roads causing high cost of maintenance;

(iii) Concessions to students, physically handicapped, Government Servants etc.;

(iv) Uneconomic fares ;

(v) Increase in Prices of diesel and petroleum products;