

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;