

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) In accordance with the Schemes, Rules and Regulations under the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Act, and Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, private individuals are not permitted to open engineering or medical college in the country. However, proposals from Trusts, Societies, Universities, State Govts. etc. are considered.

[English]

Amount Spent in Goa National Highway

2982. **SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated/spent on Goa National Highway during the years 1996-98, year-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The total allocation for National Highways in Goa is as follows:

Year	(Rupees lakhs)	
	NH(O)	Maintenance
1996-97	700.00	325.36
1997-98	900.00	450.39

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Fund for R and D

2983. **SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a fund to strengthen Research and Development in the Universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said fund is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In addition to the normal grants released for research and development by the University Grants Commission and several other agencies, Government has proposed to start a new 'Scheme of Upgradation of Libraries and Laboratories in the selected Colleges and Universities' for further strengthening the Research and Development in the Universities. An amount of Rs. 10.00 crores has been allocated for the scheme during 1998-99.

[English]

Condition of Animals in Zoo

2984. **SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:**

SHRI KAMAL NATH:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any study on the conditions of animals in different zoos of the country;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for improving the living conditions of the animals in zoos;

(c) the details of allocation of funds made available to the zoos for the purpose during the last three years and their utilisation;

(d) whether a large number of animals and birds of rare species died during the last three years in various zoological parks;

(e) if so, the details thereof, zoo-wise; and

(f) the action taken against the persons responsible for such negligence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) The Central Zoo authority, an autonomous organisation, constituted by the Central Government under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has taken up evaluation of living conditions of animals of various zoos in the country through knowledgeable persons in zoo management.

(b) the steps taken for improving the living conditions of the animals in zoos are as follows:-

(i) Zoos have been asked to improve animal housing, upkeep and health care of animals within a prescribed time frame.

(ii) The Central Government has prescribed mandatory standards and norms for housing, upkeep and health care of the animals.

(iii) Technical and Financial Assistance is provided to zoos in implementing the recommendation of the Authority. The works are to be done on 50:50 sharing basis between the Central Zoo authority and the Zoos.

(iv) Zoos which do not have potential to come up to the prescribed standards are asked to close down.

(c) The details of allocation of funds made available to the zoos for the purpose during the last three years and their utilisation are given below: