

opment Organisation (DRDO) have carried out conceptual design of a reusable air-breathing vehicle called 'Hyperplane'. This space plane will take off from conventional runway and accelerate from Mach 4 to Mach 8 with its scramjet engines. The demonstrator version of Hyperplane is named as 'Avtar'.

(c) 'Avtar' is in conceptual stage. Development of certain technological elements has been initiated involving academic institutions to build competence for development of 'Avtar'.

[Translation]

#### Recruitment of Sportsmen in Railways

3403. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :  
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to recruit young budding sportsmen through open advertisements with a view to promote sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details are being worked out and are expected to be finalised shortly.

[English]

3404. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the length of rural roads planned to be constructed during the current financial year and the allocation made in this regard, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : The Government of India do not prepare plans on the basis of length of rural roads to be constructed in the State. Construction of rural roads is the responsibility of State Governments. This Ministry has at present no funds for providing assistance to State Governments for construction of rural roads. The Planning Commission has allocated additional Central assistance to State Governments for Basic Minimum Service including construction of rural roads. The

allocation of funds for 1998-99 under Basic Minimum Services has not yet been finalised.

#### Maithri Housing Scheme

3405. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether HUDCO have a proposal to provide loan for the EWS category of "Maithri Housing Scheme" for construction of houses in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Maithri Housing Scheme is a State sector scheme launched by the Govt. of Kerala. The scheme which is being implemented through Kerala State Housing Board envisages providing one lakh houses for economically weaker sections and low income group families in the State of Kerala. HUDCO has so far sanctioned 52 projects with a loan amount of Rs. 155.61 crores for construction of 81900 dwelling units under the Maithri Housing Scheme. The financing pattern for a house under the project is as follows :

HUDCO Loan	—	Rs. 19,000
State Govt. subsidy	—	Rs. 9,000
Beneficiary Contribution	—	Rs. 1,000
Contribution by Voluntary Organisation	—	Rs. 1,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 30,000</b>

#### Use of IAF Planes by Ministers

3406. SHRI KHARABELA SWAI :  
SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Air Flights undertaken by various Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers of Defence by IAF planes during their tenure from January, 1991 to May, 1998 and the expenditure incurred thereon for official and non-official journeys, separately, year-wise;

(b) the amount of outstanding dues towards former Ministers, including Prime Ministers and other V.I.Ps as on date for use of IAF planes and the dates of their pendency;

(c) the reasons for not recovering the outstanding dues so far and the fresh efforts being made in that direction;

(d) whether some mechanism exists to categorise the visits as official or non-official; and