

committee of all enforcement agencies so that there is effective co-operation to check poaching and control of illegal trade.

[English]

#### World Bank Assistance for Major Ports

1264. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned \$7,33,000 assistance to the Tariff Authority for major ports for undertaking the studies to guide the fixing of port tariffs in the country;

(b) if so, whether the authority was planning to commission a number of studies to guide the International exports to achieve a more rational ports tariff policy;

(c) whether the Government have set up any Committee to suggest amendments to the port laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project will include, among other things, commissioning of one expert study on port pricing to boost exports.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

A Committee was constituted with the following terms of reference :

- (i) To identify the provisions in the statute which are no longer required due to changes in the maritime/port activities over the years;
- (ii) To identify the provisions which are in tune with the present needs of the ports to operate in a commercial climate and in harmony with the liberalisation of the economy; and
- (iii) To examine whether the existing statutes can be unified/simplified into a single statute.

The Committee has submitted its report to the Ministry on 20.11.1998.

[Translation]

#### Female Literacy in Bihar

1265. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the percentage of female literacy in Bihar is lowest;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for it; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Additional Allocation for Elementary Education

1266. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Government have received requests from various State Governments seeking additional financial assistance for spread of elementary education;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the quantum of additional assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government, State-wise;

(d) the decision taken/proposed to be taken towards meeting this demand; and

(e) the time by which this demand is likely to be met by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No such proposals have been received in the Ministry from State Governments in this regard.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### Development and Maintenance of National Highways in J & K

1267. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of vehicles in country, particularly in J&K and total increase during last three years;

(b) the total increase in the National Highways during this period in the country and particularly in J&K; and