

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) As per information received from the Delhi University the audit of the grants provided by the UGC during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 has since been completed. The process of compilation of accounts for the year 1997-98 by Delhi University has been started. The delay is due to mainly non submission of accounts by maintained Institutions.

[Translation]

National Highway - 27

1320. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highway No. 27 between Chalk Ghat and Garh is full of pot-holes;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to repair the said National Highway; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) National Highways are kept in traffic-worthy condition within the available funds.

(c) Fund for repair and maintenance are allocated for the entire National highway Net-Work in the state and not segment-wise.

[English]

Development of Ashan Memorial Trivandrum

1321. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Government for the development of Ashan Memorial, Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Government of Kerala and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Minimum Qualification to Contest Elections

1322. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commissioner have stressed the need for a minimum standard of education for eligibility to contest elections to the State Legislatures and the Parliament;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any opinion polls in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in the light of the Election Commissioner's statement?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (d) The Election Commission of India in its counter affidavit filed before the Delhi High Court in Civil Writ No. 1559 of 1997 — Baljeet Singh versus Election Commission of India and others, had expressed the view that a time had come when some minimum educational qualification might be prescribed for Members of Parliament and State Legislatures. It has, however, not made any proposal in this regard to the Government. No such proposal is, at present, under consideration of the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Conference of State Forestry Officials

1323. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the recommendations made at a Conference of State Forestry Officials organised at SCOPE Complex, New Delhi in September 1997 with particular emphasis on North Eastern States;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to lay on the table of the House the summary of recommendations made by the Conference and action taken report if any; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI. BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Recommendations are sent to the State Governments for taking necessary action. The Ministry has constituted a Committee to suggest a