

shall be eligible to get a grant upto Rs. 5,000/- as subsidy.

- (7) Pension at the rate of Rs. 250/- per month shall be given to the widows for a period of 3 years from the date of death of the bread winner.
- (8) Members of the family of the deceased will be imparted training in the Training Centres run by the Punjab Women and Children Welfare Corporation.
- (9) An ex-gratia grant of Rs. 5,000/- is given on the occasion of the marriage of the daughter of the deceased.
- (10) Free education in State owned and State aided educational institutions to the children of the deceased.

Those persons who sustain 100 per cent permanent disability on account of :

- (i) permanent loss of eye sight;
- (ii) an injury causing complete immobilisation of legs and arms; and
- (iii) an injury to spinal cord, will also be eligible to the relief mentioned at items 9 and 10 above.

**Reported declaration of Bangladesh to be an Islamic State**

\*852. DR. B. L. SHAIKESH :  
PROF. P. J. KURJEN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported panic developing among 20 million Hindu minority population in Bangladesh with the recent statement of Bangladesh President to declare Bangladesh an Islamic State;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the impact of this situation which is bound to result in large scale exodus of

Hindus in India thereby creating refugee problem of wide magnitude; and

(c) if so, how Government of India propose to meet the situation and whether the matter has been taken up with Bangladesh Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen reports of an announcement by President Ershad that a Bill declaring Islam the "State Religion" of Bangladesh will be considered in the Bangladeshi Parliament.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have been assured by the Government of Bangladesh that there is no need for worry.

**Disposal of Atomic waste**

853. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether all possible precautions have been taken in the disposal of atomic waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such waste is expected to become a serious problem of waste disposal by the year 2000; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Radioactive wastes are generally categorised into high, medium and low level wastes depending on their radioactive content. All these wastes are subjected to elaborate treatment and conditioning before they are stored in a safe manner. Only very low level wastes which are safe for disposal are discharged after making sure that they are well within the prescribed limits. Continuous environmental

monitoring is also ensured to make sure that proper health and safety aspects are taken care of.

(c) No, Sir. The technologies involved in the handling, processing and treatment of radioactive wastes are being constantly updated to keep pace with international developments.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Construction of Tawaghat-Jipti Road

\*854. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Border Roads Organisation has been entrusted with the responsibility of construction of Tawaghat-Jipti motorable road in Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the formalities of survey, estimates etc. of this road have been completed;

(c) if so, when those were completed; and

(d) if not, the time by which these formalities will be completed and the construction work on this road will be started ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE :  
(SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) A decision has since been taken, in principle, to entrust the construction of the road to Border Roads Organisation.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The construction of the road is likely to commence during 1989-90 after it is included in the BRDB programme on the basis of the Survey report/Approximate Project Estimate.

[English]

#### Incidence of Suicide Deaths

\*855. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :  
SHRI YASHWANTRAO  
GADAKH PATIL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards news item appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 7 March 1988 captioned "50000 Indians committed suicide every year";

(b) if so, the number of suicides committed during the last two years;

(c) whether the rate of suicides is high in India as compared to other countries; and

(d) the steps taken to check the rising number of suicides ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the available information 53,492 and 38,329 cases were reported in the years 1986 and 1987 respectively.

(c) Information regarding cases of suicide committed in other countries is not compiled by Central agencies.

(d) As prior notice or intimation about the intention to commit suicide is not available it seems to be difficult to take preventive action in advance. Regarding dowry deaths from suicide it may be said that the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 has been amended in 1984 and 1986 to make the law regarding offences against women stringent. The Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have also been amended to deal effectively not only with dowry death cases but also with cases of cruelty to married women.