

out the country which is financed from GSI's budget. During 1987-88 Field Season GSI is likely to spend Rupees 335 lakhs for different gold investigations in the country.

#### Increase in Road Accidents

\*35. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :  
SHRI SRI HARI RAO :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether road accidents in the country are on the increase in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh initiatives taken during the last six months to tackle this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). While the absolute numbers have been increasing, the number of road accidents and fatalities per 1000 vehicles has shown a progressive decline over the years.

(c) As a part of road-safety measures, Road Safety Week was observed during 6-12 June 1988 throughout the country to create public awareness about road safety aspects. Stricter provisions have been made in respect of grant of driving licences, vehicle inspection and punishment for violations of traffic regulations, in the Motor Vehicles Bill, 1988, introduced in Lok Sabha on 13-5-1988.

#### Wasteland Development for Profitable Forestry

\*36. SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH :  
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) where there are any proposals or schemes to convert wastelands in the country into profitable forestry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the allocation made for this propose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :

(a) The emphasis in the programmes undertaken on wastelands is not on profitability but on ecological restoration and on social forestry.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

#### Changes in Steel Policy

\*37. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand for steel by 2000 AD has been estimated at 26 million tonnes as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' of June 16, 1988;

(b) if so, the policy changes envisaged to ensure availability of the required quantity of steel by then;

(c) whether per tonne cost of steel is increasing due to huge project costs for integrated steel plants; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to ensure that Indian steel is produced at the same or nearly same cost as in other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No policy changes are envisaged in order to meet the demand of steel by 2000 AD. Indigenous production will be increased to meet demand by modernisation and expansion of existing steel plants, and establishment of additional steel making capacity in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Scheme to Encourage Setting up of Food Industries under Cottage Industries

\*38. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :  
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is great possibility