

proposal with the implementation of the recommendations of the Madan Committee;

(c) the date from which the Madan Committee's recommendations have been implemented;

(d) whether the consideration of the proposal for special allowances to Heads of Departments caused delay in its final implementation; and

(e) if not, the other reasons for delay in their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (e). The Madan Committee Report pertains to the revision of Staff Structure only. The recommendations of the Committee have been approved by the Central Government in respect of technical institutions in Union Territory of Delhi on 1.7.87 and are in the process of implementation.

The implementation of the revised Staff Structure is not linked with the revision of salary scales excepting that the new cadre of senior lecturer provided in the report has to be created.

Re-Constitution of State Transport Appellate Tribunal

*310. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conference of State Transport Ministers at Aurangabad recommended to Union Government to re-constitute the State Transport Appellate Tribunal with three members;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have considered the proposal; and

(c) whether suitable amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act are proposed to be introduced to that effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The recommendation of the Conference of Southern State Transport Ministers held in 1977 as modified by the same Conference held in 1979 is that States which require the re-constitution of the Tribunal may propose local amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

(b) One proposal for a local amendment was received but was not found acceptable.

(c) Does not arise.

Maithili University, Darbhanga

*311. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission and the Association of Indian Universities have opined that Maithili University, Darbhanga is only a society and not a university;

(b) if so, whether in spite of this, Maithili University continues to confer the degree like a bonafide university; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c). Under the University Grants Commission Act, the right of conferring or granting degrees shall be exercised only by a University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, or a State Act or an institution deemed to be a university under section 3 of the Act or an institution specially empowered by an Act of Parliament to confer or grant degrees. The so-called Maithili University does not fall under any of the aforesaid categories and is not, therefore, empowered to award degrees. The institution has been directed by the UGC to delete the word 'University' from its name and to stop awarding degrees. The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices

Commission have also restrained the institution from describing itself as a 'University' and from conferring the award of degrees.

Design of Varapuzha Bridge

*312. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the design of Varapuzha bridge in Cochin has been finalised;

(b) whether land for Muthakunnam-Edapally section of National Highway No. 17 has been acquired; and

(c) the time by which the above National Highway Section will be opened for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) The National Highway Section between Muthakunnam-Edapally is already open to traffic except for the missing bridge at Varapuzha where the ferry service is at present in operation.

Price of Indigenous Steel Materials

*315. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average price of indigenous steel materials is much higher than international prices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures taken or contemplated to reduce the cost of production and to improve international competitiveness?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c). It would not be realistic to compare Indian steel prices with those prevailing in the international market as the latter are often kept

lower than the domestic prices in the countries of origin in order to support exports. However, the domestic prices of Indian Steel net of taxes and levies are comparable with those of other major steel producing countries.

Steps taken/being taken by the main producers to reduce cost of production and to improve the international competitiveness include raising the capacity utilization increasing productivity, improving techno-economic, performance including energy savings, improved maintenance and modernization of equipment.

Prawn Farm in Kerala with Assistance of Kuwait Fund

*317. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the present stage of the project forwarded by the Kerala Government for developing prawn farming in the brackish water areas in the State with the assistance of "Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development"?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development have shown their interest in financing the Kerala Fisheries Development Project for Prawn Culture of the Government of Kerala. The Fund have informed the Government of India recently, that they propose to send a team in October, 1988 to appraise the Project.

Cracks in Badrinath Shrine Complex

*319. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports of cracks having developed in Badrinath shrine complex; and