

village volunteer scheme in view of the financial constraints involved. We are already spending Rs. 60 crores a year for this scheme.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that an honorarium of Rs 50 and some medicines for use are given to the Village Health Guide. The Minimum Wages Act is in force in the country and the Government give this honorarium of Rs. 50 to them just to ward off that Act. I have a definite information that nobody wants to do any work in the village for this honorarium of Rs. 50; instead, he keeps the medicines with him. Accepting this information of mine as correct, will the hon. Minister get it examined that nobody works for this amount and this amount goes waste and that this does not benefit even the villagers?

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : I have already stated that the family planning programme has adequate number of peripheral workers on the Government roll and we don't want to add another four lakh village health guides under the Government roll. This scheme had been originally devised as a voluntary scheme and the financial constraints do not allow giving additional honorarium or out of pocket expenses to this category of peripheral workers. We have to decide how to use our staff resources in the most effective manner.

[*Translation*]

Proposal to Link Jhunjhunu with National Highway

*70. **SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which Jhunjhunu, in Rajasthan is likely to be linked with National Highway;

(b) whether Government have a scheme to link Sikar with Delhi;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to have this scheme extended for linking Delhi-Sikar-Jhunjhunu; and

(d) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (d) The question of declaring any State Road as a National Highway is governed by a number of factors such as (a) whether it fulfils the criteria for declaring it as National Highway, (b) the availability of adequate resources, and (c) inter-se priority attached to individual work. Owing to severe financial constraints in the current Plan, it is not possible to make any new additions to the existing National Highways system, at present including the road in question from Sikar to Delhi, via Jhunjhunu.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : We take exception to this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Hon. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, the hon. Minister is an Ex-Serviceman and the most of the population of Jhunjhunu also consists of Ex-Serviceman and the serving army-personnel. Besides, the first person to join I.N.A., which got independence for the country, belonged to this area. The first 50 persons were from this area. Survey has been conducted twice to link Jhunjhunu and Sikar to the National Highway. I want to know whether the matter will be considered afresh in spite of the fact that survey has been held twice.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not add that it is we who earn maximum foreign exchange for the country...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : When Sikar is linked with the question, we give it a careful consideration because...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You have not considered it even once but how you give it a careful consideration.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The hon. Member has very intelligently linked Sikar with the question although it is already linked with Delhi. Keeping in view the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member as also in view of the fact that there is large number of Ex-Servicemen there... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Sikar or Speaker?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Speaker. There is a large number of Ex-servicemen there and survey has also been conducted there. Although Government is facing a severe financial problem, the Government would certainly keep their sentiments in view.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Hon. Speaker, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Vyasji

...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GIRDHARILAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has, in reply to the question of Shri Ayub, spelt out the criteria on which a Highway can be declared a national highway. The hon. Member has raised a demand in respect of Jhunjhunu, but since the constituency of the hon. Speaker also falls in that area, you will surely accept that demand. But, at the same time, the road from Ajmer to Indore and upto Bombay is also very important one and the traffic on this particular road is the maximum. That road is State Highway No. 4. I want to know whether, in addition to linking Jhunjhunu with the National Highway, this road will also be converted into National Highway?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I shall get it examined. We have conducted survey earlier also we have made a declaration in respect of those roads which come under these criteria. The Government cannot

take up additional work due to financial constraints.

...*(Interruptions)*...

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Shocking conditions in Delhi Hospitals

*64. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the shocking exposure of conditions in hospitals in the Capital and other important cities in "Sach.Ki Par-chhayan" telecast in the month of January this year; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps are being taken by Government with regard to improvements in Central Government hospitals in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOH-SINA KIDWAI) : (a) and (b) The question of improving the conditions and the delivery of services in government hospitals in Delhi has been engaging the attention of the Government for some time. Measures to rationalise the staffing pattern and to bring in improvements in the administration and management have already initiated. However the problems also get aggravated because of the congestion and over-crowding in such hospitals. Long-term measures to reduce congestion like establishing hospitals at the periphery of Delhi and strengthening the existing hospitals and dispensaries under Delhi Administration are also being taken so as to ensure this objective.

Publicity re : advantages of breast feeding and setting up a National Institute of Child Health

*65. **SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIAK :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state ;