

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) 12 number of bridges on National Highways in Karnataka are in progress during the last two years. Out of these two works are nearing completion.

(b) One bridge is proposed to be built during the current year. The Annual Plan for the next year 1997-98 is yet to be finalised.

(c) The State PWD are continuously pursued for expediting the progress on the bridges and regular review meetings are being held with the State PWD officials to sort out any problems hampering the progress on these works.

Children lodged in Jails across the Country

3070. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children lodged in Delhi jail and other jails in the country, including those who have attained adulthood while in jails without trial and without seeking bail; and how many of them are females; and

(b) whether a review of the conditions of these children has lately been made, if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Accidents of IAF planes

3071. SHRI K.R. MALKANI:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of aircrafts of Indian Air Force, which crashed during the last three years and during 1996 till date alongwith their dates of accidents;

(b) the reasons for these accidents alongwith the total amount of loss occurred;

(c) whether any measures have been contemplated to reduce the number of such accidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The number of aircraft lost in air crashes during the last 3 years is 22, 25 and 27. The crashes were of different aircraft in the IAF inventory. It would not be in our security interest to give out the exact date, type of aircraft lost and the cause of accident in each case.

(b) These accidents have been place mainly due to Technical Failure, Human Error and Bird Strike. The total amount of loss suffered during the last three financial years is about Rs. 457.5 crores.

(c) and (d) To contain these accidents, air support and attack patterns have been reviewed and the manufacturers are also being closely associated. Steps have also been taken by the Ministries of Agriculture and Urban Affairs & Employment and the concerned State Governments for modernisation of slaughter houses/carcass utilisation centres and for sanitation of areas around the bird prone airfields to reduce bird activities.

Anti-India propaganda by Pakistan Radio

3072. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report that anti-India programmes in Punjabi language instigation the Sikh population in India are being broadcast by Lahore Station of Radio Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the diplomatic steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to counter this mischievous propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.