

provide more employment to the skilled and educated unemployed youth in the State?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRAN NAIDU): (a) Number of youths trained in the State of Punjab under TRYSEM during the year 1995-96 is 2670.

(b) Physical targets are fixed by the State Government on a year to year basis and financial allocation is fixed by the Central Government on the basis of poverty incidence prevailing in the State, also on year to year basis. However, allocation of fund for Punjab under TRYSEM during the year 1996-97 is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Recurring expenses		Strengthening of training infrastructure	
Central Allocation	State Allocation	Central Allocation	State Allocation
21.50	21.50	7.00	7.00

(c) To create more employment opportunities for the poor youth, this Ministry is implementing TRYSEM Scheme. Under this scheme technical skills are imparted to poor rural youth to enable them to take up self/wage employment activities in the broad fields of agriculture and allied sectors, services and industries. Such youth are also provided loans/subsidy under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Recently, under this programme, educated (read upto class VIII) unemployed rural youth belonging to 'Below Poverty Line' families are entitled to receive an enhanced subsidy amount of Rs. 7500/- or 50% of the Project cost, whichever is less, for taking up economic enterprises as a means of self-employment.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर पुल-पुलियों की खराब स्थिति

31. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव: क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1995 तक राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर कितने पुल-पुलियों के खराब और कितने पुल-पुलियों को बहुत ही खराब स्थिति में पाया गया है,

(ख) वर्ष 1991-92 से 1994-95 तक प्रति वर्ष कितने खराब और बहुत ही खराब स्थिति वाले पुल-पुलियों का मरम्मत और पुनर्निर्माण कार्य कराया गया है; और

(ग) गंभीर रूप से खराब हो चुके पुल और पुलियों का मार्ग-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी. जी. वेंकटरमन): (क) से (ग) राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर अनेक पुल और पुलियां हैं। पिछले सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर 559 पुल विपद्ग्रस्त थे। उनकी स्थिति और निधियों की उपलब्धता के आधार पर चरणबद्ध रूप में विपद्ग्रस्त पुल और पुलियों की मरम्मत की जाती है।

Relations with Sri Lanka

32. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI PAT-NAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish better relations with Sri Lanka;

(b) whether Sri Lankan Government also wants to improve its friendly ties with India; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India attaches great importance to maintaining close and cordial relations with Sri Lanka. Bilateral relations between the two countries continue to be friendly and close and are marked by an increasing spirit of mutual understanding.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on a goodwill visit to India from June 20—22 reiterated that it is the policy of the Government of Sri Lanka to promote very close, friendly and cooperative relations with India.