

be the subject matter of a bigger investigation. There is another question which I would like to ask.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, this is not connected with the main question.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Here there is a reference to the one-time improvement. Now there is a desire that there should be the same pay scale and there should be equal pay for equal work. Now, is it not possible for the Government to have similar types of pay scales as recommended by the Pay Commission being made applicable to the University employees also?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, this supplementary goes far beyond the main question and I will have to lay open the entire question of the Pay Commission. But, Sir, this is a limited question and to question is what the recommendations are and to whom they apply. I have given a pointed reply and I do not think that we can go into that wider question now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. no. What he want to know is...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : The Question refers to it.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, cadre review has been recommended to be done by each University and the Universities have done it.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: This is about the structure, Sir. Each University, because of the different type, will

certainly have its own structure. But, corresponding to each cadre, the pay scales can be implemented. This is one thing. The second thing that I would like to know is why they are not consistent with the pay scales offered to the rest of the employees of the Government of India.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I would need notice for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is right. Now the next Question, Question No. 427.

*427. [The question (Shri Nagen Sukia) was absent. For answer vide col. 37-38 *infra*].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 428.

National Highway in Orissa

*428. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for the construction of a new National Highway in Orissa and the improvement of the existing National Highway; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) There is no plan to declare new National Highway in Orissa at present. However the 7th Five Year Plan for National Highways includes a works programme of about Rs. 101 crores as per statement laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Schemewise abstract of road and bridge works included in the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90)

S. No.	Scheme	Length in km./ No.	Estimated cost (Rs. lakhs)
1	2	3	4
A	Normal Plan Works		
I	Construction of missing links	39 Km.	187.00
II	Improvement to low grade sections	126 Km.	884.00

1	2	3	4
III	Widening to two lanes (without strengthening)
IV	Widening and strengthening single lane to two lanes.	348 Km.	2801.00
V	Strengthening weak to two-lane stretches :		
	(a) 1st stage strengthening	237 Km.	1316.00
	(b) 2nd Stage strengthening
VI	Reconstruction/widening of weak and narrow culverts	LS	120.00
VII	Providing by e-passes around congested towns	3 Nos.	145.00
VIII	Approaches to Minor bridges	LS	240.00
IX	Widening to four lanes	9 Km.	540.00
X	Miscellaneous items	LS	538.00
XI	Bridge works	41 Nos.	1305.00
B	Arterial Routes:		
I	Strengthening of weak two lane stretches	141	1830.00
II	Bridge works	9 Nos.	215.00
Total			10121.00

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Sir, I would like to know from the honourable Minister what is the total length of the National Highway in Orissa and the total provision made in the Plan, under this head in the current financial year. Is the Government aware of the fact that due to very bad condition of the road the amount allotted, during the year is not sufficient? What action Government has taken on the demand of the State Government to allot more funds during the current financial year?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, the total length of the National Highway in Orissa State is 1, 624 Km. as against the total length of the National Highway in the country of 31,983 km. As for the allocations in the plans, Sir, in the Sixth Plan, we spent Rs. 23.29 crores for the National Highways in Orissa. In the current Annual Plan we have sanctioned roughly Rs. 5.46 crores. Orissa is a backward State and the Government is aware of the requirements of the State of

Orissa and that is why in the current Plan we have increased the allocation and we have sympathy and consideration for Orissa, as the honourable Member has pointed out.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: My question is what the allotment is during the current financial year.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It is Rs. 9.50 crores.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: During the current year?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Yes.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Sir, I would like to put my second Supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Sir, as per the recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee,

the state Government had submitted a proposal to declare two National Highways in Orissa. The first one is Berhampur-Raipur via Bhawanipatna which is a very important road and which passes through three important states, that is, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The second one is Banagan-Kharial via Bolangir and Titlagarh. Emphasis was laid on this in the Transport Development council meeting held on the 17th October 1985 for taking up this road due to the coming up of the Defence project at Sainthala in the district of Bolangir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what happened to these two new roads?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, it is a fact that the National Transport Policy Committee recommended these two roads, Berhampur to Raipur and Balasore to Gorakhpur. But as I mentioned, Sir, due to acute shortage of resources in this sector we have not been able to really sanction these two projects. But in this new plan which we are considering, some important roads are there which can be taken care of in the next plan.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a plan to construct a road Raxaul to Orissa via Bihar.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It is difficult for me now to give the location of this and what is the progress.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will look into it (interruptions) Next question.

*429. [The questioners (Shri T. R. Balu and Shri V. Gopalsamy) were absent. For answer, vide col. 38 *infra*].

Blindness among children due to lack of non-essential drugs

*430. **SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA:** †
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the 'Indian Express' of 28th September, 1986 to the effect that about 30,000 children who go blind every year in the country, are often victims of non-essential drugs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHA-PARDE): (a) Yes, Sir. We have seen the press report. While, Government are not aware of any recorded evidence to support the claim in the report, the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind reported in 1970 that 42,000 children in 1—5 years age group in India develop blindness every year due to malnutrition.

(b) and (c) A National Blindness Survey is in progress which will also cover the extent of occurrence of blindness in children and the causes for it.

Under National Programme for Control of Blindness, eye care services are being provided in stages at primary, secondary and tertiary levels coupled with Health Education measures. Vitamin 'A' prophylaxis programme has been undertaken through network of MCH services to cover children below 6 years.

श्री नरेश सी० पुगलिया : सभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर में इस चीज को कबूल किया है कि 1978 में रायल कॉमनवेल्थ सोसाइटी फॉर दि ब्लाइंड ने जो रिपोर्ट दी है उसमें पांच वर्ष से कम

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Naresh C. Puglia.