

(d) whether it is a fact that proposed Space Navigation Systems are already available for sale in the world; and

(e) if so, the reasons for trying to build and research something which is already in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India and Russia have agreed to work together in the development, operation and use of the Russian Navigation Satellite system called GLONASS. However, the details of the commitments on both sides as well as the extent of services are yet to be worked out.

(d) and (e) The US Global Positioning system (GPS) provides navigation and positioning services. Participation in the GLONASS system will provide an independent and alternative option to GPS.

Offer to use EDUSAT to Foreign Countries

2362. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered the use of EDUSAT to countries in Africa for providing connectivity to Elementary and Higher Education and also Satellite based distant learning;

(b) if so, the details and names of the countries and their response to the proposal; and

(c) would India consider sharing its satellite data with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. India has not offered the use of Edusat to African countries for providing tele-education connectivity. However, a Project is under preparation to provide tele-medicine and tele-education connectivity to fifty-three countries of the African Union through a satellite-based network, based on Indian experience.

Completion of Projects

†2363. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects out of the projects under construction during March, 2001 have been completed.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of projects completed during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(c) the number of such projects which could not be completed till March, 2004;

(d) the number of new projects whose construction had been undertaken during the above period; and

(e) the names of the Ministries to whom each project was associated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 96 projects in 2001-02, 83 projects in 2002-03 and 59 projects in 2003-04 were completed.

(c) As on 31st March 2004, 549 projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above were under implementation.

(d) During 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, 75, 198 and 118 new projects respectively were undertaken for construction.

(e) The number of projects taken up for construction during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 Ministry-wise is given below:

Sl No.	Name of the Ministry/Department	Number of New projects added during		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Atomic Energy	2	1	2
2.	Civil Aviation	4	—	—
3.	Coal	10	12	16
4.	Fertilizers	—	—	2
5.	Mines	1	—	—
6.	Steel	4	4	—
7.	Petroleum	14	3	12
8.	Power	10	15	13
9.	Railways	18	7	45

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Road Transport & Highways	—	130*	5
11.	Shipping & Ports	10	12	8
12.	Telecommunication	1	8	8
13.	Urban Development	1	4	7
14.	Water Resources	—	2	—
TOTAL:		75	198	118

*For the purpose of monitoring, the National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) projects are grouped according to awarded packages.

Distribution of MPLADS Funds

†2364. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds allocated under the MPLADS for development schemes are not distributed through the agencies selected by the Parliamentarians concerned and rather distribution of funds is being done through the agencies selected by the Block Development Officer and Village Panchayat Head at their own discretion;

(b) if so, whether it is not an insult to the Parliamentarian;

(c) if not, the number of such cases in the country during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 in which funds were not timely allocated to the agencies doing their work;

(d) whether it is also a fact that no work was undertaken especially in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh; and

(e) the details of works undertaken by Block Development Office in Rohru and Chirgaon of Shimla district in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) to (c) In accordance with para 2.1 of the Guidelines on Member of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.