

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government held discussions with the private contractors to complete the projects; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (f) In order to complete delayed projects within time-frame, regular meetings are held at the level of Hon'ble Minister/Secretary, MoRT&H and Chairman, NHAI with all the stake holders including Contractors/Concessionaires. The issues impacting the progress of the different projects are discussed and directions are given to the concerned to clear these bottlenecks which are hampering the progress of the projects.

Besides the high level meetings, regular meetings are also held at the level of Regional Officers/Chief General Managers of concerned State at site. The projects are reviewed regularly by the Project Director on fortnightly basis and by Regional Officers on monthly basis and HQ level also. The issues are also flagged to the High Powered Committee constituted under Chief Secretary for expeditious resolution of the issues for faster implementation of the projects *inter-alia* including land acquisition, shifting of utilities and rehabilitation and resettlement.

The completion schedules of the projects are revised wherever necessary depending upon the constraints/bottlenecks and resolutions thereof.

#### **Ban on use of live animals for dissection**

\*68. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has banned the use of live animals in dissection and other experiments, in hospitals and educational and research institutes to stop the unwanted cruelty to them; and

(b) if so, whether it will affect research and experiments which are required for the welfare of human beings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.