

Unemployed Graduates/Post Graduates

†*416. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the literacy percentage for the year 2001 was 65.37 in comparison to the 16.67 per cent in the year 1951 in the country;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed Graduates and Post Graduates out of them; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to deal with this problem?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) As per the information available from the office of the Registrar General of India, literacy percentage in the country in the year 1951 and 2001 was approximately 18.33% and 65.37% (provisional) respectively.

Number of Graduate and Post Graduate job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on December, 2001 (latest available) was of the order of 52.74 lakh. Several Employment Generation programmes in addition to employment generation through normal growth process have been initiated to tackle the problems of unemployment.

Bidding by NHAI to cut cost of road projects

*419. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is making an attempt to cut costs on its massive Inter-State highway development plan by moving to a less-cost bidding protocol;

(b) if so, wouldn't this move lead to serious defaults on quality;

(c) whether the NHAI has announced new bidding process for around 2,160 kms. of North-South-East-West corridors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.