

financial assistance every year. They are prioritised for sanction subject to the availability of funds and feasibility of proposals.

(b) and (c) The State Government through a resolution dated 17.8.96 has constituted a Special Tourism Authority. The State Government is developing a Special Tourism Area towards the south of the Puri town over an area of 3500 Acres (Approximately) extending upto Chilika Lake. The special tourism area is planned to be a premier International tourist destination and will provide all facilities such as hotel accomodation, air strip, golf course, amusement parks, convention centre, handicraft emporia etc. over a compact area to attract tourists in large numbers. The State Government has resolved to constitute the Special Tourism Authority, Puri which will act as an apex body in the State for formulation of general guidelines and principles for overall promotion of tourism in the Special Tourism Area.

Backlog for SC/STs in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for various Post

3523. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reserved posts meant for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Communities have been filled up during the last 3 years and till date in his Ministry;

(b) whether any backlog of posts reserved for them still remain unfilled; and

(c) if so, by when that backlog is expected to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU):

(a) to (c) As for as vacancies meant for SCs, STs and OBCs. filled by promotion

in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs are concerned, these were filled by the candidates from the respective categories during the last three years and till date as and when vacancies arose. However, when eligible candidates belonging to these categories were not available, those vacancies were dereserved and reservations carried forward to the subsequent Recruitment Years. Regarding reserved vacancies filled by direct recruitment, there is a ban on de-reserving and the Ministry has no power for de-reserving the vacancies and the unfilled reserved vacancies are treated as backlog vacancies. As such, there are two backlog vacancies (SC-1 & ST-1) in Group 'B' posts and two backlog vacancies have already been reported to SSC for inclusion in the Special Recruitment Drive, 1996. These vacancies will be filled up on receipt of nominations from Staff Selection Commission.

Revenue Scam in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

3524. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a revenue scam in a land racket has been detected in Varanasi, U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE & MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI. P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes Sir, As per news paper reports certain irregularities in land transactions in Varanasi have been detected by local District Revenue Authorities.

(b) It is alleged that land in six villages namely Ranipur, Patiya, Bajardiha, Kakarmatta, Tulsipur and Newada was acquired by the District Land revenue Authorities and the revenue rights on these lands was entered in the name of U.P. Awas Vikas Parishad. On the above