

Need to introduce job-linked vocational courses

4000. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great need to introduce job-linked vocational courses;

(b) if so, the States where such courses have been introduced; and

(c) the emphasis laid by the Central Government for funding the State Governments to set-up institutions for imparting, training and education for job-linked courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education launched in February, 1988, vocation courses have been introduced at the higher secondary level in selected schools. All State/UTs except Lakshadweep have joined the vocational education programme for which substantial financial assistance is provided by the Central Government.

Backlog of reserved seats in Railways

4001. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are lying vacant in the Ministry of Railways;

(b) if so, full details thereof, category-wise, and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the backlog of the posts reserved for SCs/STs is likely to be filled-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) As per Department of Personnel & Training's directives, a Special Recruitment Drive was launched during the year 1995 to wipe out the shortfall of vacancies reserved for SC/STs existing on 1.4.95 through direct recruitment. The shortfall identified in the Special Recruitment Drive launched on 1.4.95 vis-a-vis the shortfall cleared by 16.7.96 and balance of vacancies is detailed below:

Particulars	Group C		Group D	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
Identified as on 1.4.95 for direct recruitment;	361	431	528	990
Cleared by 16.7.96	360	406	528	990
Balance of vacancies	001	023	Nil	Nil

The balance of 24 vacancies could not be filled up due to non-availability of SC/STs with requisite qualifications in technical categories viz. Pharmacists, Staff Nurse, Stenographers, Radiographers, etc.

(c) For clearing the balance shortfall of Special Recruitment Drive-1995 and the shortfall existing as on 30.6.96, another Special Recruitment Drive has been launched from 15.7.96 to be completed by 31.3.97.

Monitoring of Water quality of Godavari river

4002. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water quality of the Godavari river at Kovvur and

Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh is being monitored;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any permanent machinery is proposed for monitoring in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) The water quality of river godavari is being monitored every month at upstream and downstream of Rajahmundry by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board under the Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources Programme of the Central Pollution Control Board. The Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) of the river at downstream of Rajahmundry is 2.0 miligrams per litre to 4.0 miligrams per litre against the prescribed standard of a maximum of 3 miligrams per litre required for outdoor bathing.

(c) and (d) No proposal for setting up a continuous monitoring station in this regard has been received from the State Government.

Setting up of Mahila Ayog in States

4003. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Mahila Ayog set-up in each State under the direction of the National Commission for Women;

(b) the details of the States where no Mahila Ayog has been set-up so far; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by Government to impress upon the State Governments to set-up Mahila Ayog in their States for the benefit of women?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) Assam, Delhi, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal have set up Commissions for Women at their own initiative and not under the direction of the National Commission for Women. Others have also been advised to do so.

Demand for Divisional Office at Badarpur

4004. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long-drawn agitation going on in Barak Valley demanding Railway's Divisional Office at Badarpur; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to establish a Divisional Office at Badarpur to meet the demand of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. After examining all issues the Government has decided to set up eight new divisions at Agra, Pune, Ranchi, Raipur, Rangiya, Guntur, Singrauli and Ahmedabad.

Doubling of rail lines in Gujarat

4005. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHAN-SINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of his Ministry for doubling of rail lines in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time schedule for completion of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.