

[13 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

UTs, a Centrally Sponsored Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), with effect from 01.12.1997 with a view to providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employment poor through (i) encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those who have read upto 9th standard and (ii) provision of wage employment by utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme is funded in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and States. There is a total unspent balance amounting to about Rs. 556 crores, both Central and State funds taken together, from out of the erstwhile urban poverty alleviation schemes subsumed in SJSRY with effect from 01.12.1997. Further Central funds worth Rs. 461 crores have been released to the States/UTs under SJSRY till 31st March, 2001. Based on reports received from the State Governments/ UTs till 30th June, 2001, urban poor numbering about 3.44 lakhs have been assisted through setting up of micro-enterprises, 3.07 lakhs received training and 379.33 lakhs mandays of work have also been generated with the utilisation of funds amounting to Rs. 718 crores (approximately). It may not thus be correct to say that the SJSRY has not shown any fruitful result.

(b) Some of the reasons identified as bottlenecks are: (i) There has been inadequate financial cooperation from Banks in sanctioning the loans to prospective beneficiaries; and (ii) the States/UTs needed some time to conduct detailed surveys for identifying target groups. Although the utilisation of funds under SJSRY had initially been relatively low, it has since picked up momentum due to vigorous monitoring of the scheme at Central level.

(c) The States/UTs are pursued from time to time for more effective implementation of the SJSRY by utilising unspent balances with them. In addition, close monitoring is done at the Central level for better results.

Appointment of news editors in AIR

*308. SHRI ANIL SHARMA:

SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual news readers/translators and casual news editors empanelled after written and audition test in the Hindi Unit of NSD in AIR as on date, category-wise;

(b) the names and credentials of casual news editors who have been empanelled without any formal test alongwith their entry date in the Hindi Unit; and

(c) the reasons for backdoor entry of above news editors in Hindi Unit of NSD, AIR?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

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| (a) No. of persons engaged on casual assignment basis as Newsreader-cum-Translator after written and audition test | : | 89 |
| No. of empanelled persons engaged on casual assignment basis as Translator only after written test | : | 27 |
| No. of retired persons engaged for editorial work on casual assignment basis | : | 06 |

(b) and (c) The following persons were empanelled as casual News Editors without any formal test in the Hindi Unit of News Services Division from the dates mentioned against each:—

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| 1. Suresh Nautiyal, Correspondent, Sunday Observer | : | 12.12.1992 |
| 2. Rajgopal, Director, Publicity, Delhi Admn. | : | 08.04.1993 |
| 3. Umakant, B.A., Freelance Journalist | : | 22.04.1996 |
| 4. H. S. Pawar, M.A., P. G. Diploma in Journalism | : | 08.08.1997 |
| 5. Abrar Rehmani, B.A. | : | 08.08.1997 |
| 6. Mehfooz Haq, M.A., P. G. Diploma in Journalism | : | 08.08.1997 |
| 7. Rajiv Ranjan, B.A., Freelance Journalist | : | 08.08.1997 |
| 8. Kanak, B.A., Freelance Journalist | : | 17.01.2000 |
| 9. Mukesh Kumar, B. A., Freelance Journalist | : | 19.07.2000 |

These persons are being booked to meet the exigencies of service as and when required.