

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, I understand from the reply given by the Minister that the Government is considering an unrestrictive policy for undertaking development projects at our ports. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: What are the reasons or what is the rationale for formulating a policy with regard to the prevention of private monopoly in port sector and the scope of coverage of the policy to prevent private monopoly in port sector?

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, when it comes to the question of coverage which the hon. Member has asked, I would like to tell that the policy will be applicable to upcoming PPP projects at major ports. This policy will not be applicable to non-major ports since they are under the administrative control of the State Governments. Once the policy is notified under Section 111 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, it would be circulated to all the maritime States, and they would be free to adopt the policy based on the requirements of the ports in the States.

Training facility for PRI representatives

*267. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for setting up new institutions for training representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in order to create awareness about the various schemes being implemented by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any decision thereon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C. P. JOSHI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a proposal from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for setting up a new Panchayati Raj Training Institute at Mandi.

(c) to (e) The proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर: सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार की तरफ से मण्डी के लिए proposal आया है और वह consideration में है। मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि उस पर ये कब तक फैसला लेंगे? मैं उनसे यह भी जानना चाहती हूँ कि Centre ने ऐसे training centres और कहाँ-कहाँ देने के लिए propose किये हैं या उनके पास कहाँ-कहाँ के लिए proposals आये हैं?

श्री सी.पी. जोशी: सर, प्रदेश में already तीन training centres, बैजनाथ, मशोबरा और मण्डी में हैं। दूसरे स्टेट्स के मुकाबले इस स्टेट की जो पॉपुलेशन है, उसके मुताबिक वहां पर केवल एक training centre की ही आवश्यकता है, जबकि वहां पर already तीन चल रहे हैं, लेकिन फिर भी हम इसको explore करेंगे कि इसकी सम्भावना बनती है या नहीं बनती है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Utilisation of funds by PRIs.

*268. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms and rules for utilization of funds allocated to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) under different schemes;
- (b) whether the funds allocated for the PRIs to the States including Maharashtra under different schemes have been utilized fully by them;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the action taken by Government to ensure full utilization of these funds;
- (f) whether Government is considering any enhancement in the allocation of funds to States under these schemes; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof, especially for Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) The development grant component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), administered by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, is implemented by the Panchayats and the Municipalities. Fund under the Development Grant Component is apportioned among the 250 identified backward districts as per the following norms:

- (i) Rs. 10 crore per annum per district is provided as the basic minimum allocation.
- (ii) The balance allocation is distributed by giving equal weight to the population and area of the district in the total population and area of all the 250 backward districts.

The State Governments are required to determine the norms for further allocation of this BRGF fund to the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the districts. The detailed guidelines of the Programme for utilization of BRGF fund are available in the website of the Ministry, namely, www.panchayat.gov.in.