- OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As per information received from 58 Ministries/Departments, as on 1.1.1999, there was a backlog of 6171 vacancies meant for Handicapped Persons in various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. The details of backlog vacancies in respect of Public Sector Undertakings is not being maintained centrally.
- (c) to (e) The Staff Selection Commission proposes to hold a special examination to facilitate filling up of matriculation level vacancies meant for Visually Handicapped persons in various Ministries/Departments on 24th September, 2000.

## Experts deputed abroad to take foreign assignments

- 2753, SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of experts are being deputed abroad to take Foreign Assignments under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and Bilateral Assignments to developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America;
- (b) if so, the number of such experts deputed during the last five years, year-wise alongwith the number of persons belonging to SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total number; and
- (c) if adequate number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs community are not given representation in the said training programme, the reasons therefor?
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.