

Setting up of RTI in each department

3270. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Information Commission has asked Government to set up a RTI cell in each department and appoint senior officials as Central Public Information Officers;

(b) if so, whether these instructions have been complied with; and

(c) if not, by when this exercise would be completed so that RTI Act is comprehensively implemented to justify the confidence being reposed by general public in this useful tool in their hands to get information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Employment generation in Assam

3271. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has prepared a blueprint for employment generation in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of unemployed people provided employment during the last five years in Assam and other North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) As a followup of the announcement made by the Prime Minister on the preparation of a blueprint for employment generation in Assam on 21st-22nd November, 2004, the Government of Assam submitted a report, namely, "Mission to Generate Employment and Stimulate the Economy of Assam 2005-08". The report aimed to give a roadmap for employment generation covering the strategic thrust areas like (i) Agriculture and allied sectors with focus on Horticulture, Spices, Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, Bamboo, Dairy, (ii) Business Enterprises — covering Handloom and Handicrafts, Tourism, Small and Medium Enterprises, (iii) Industrial Infrastructure, (iv) Development of Manpower and Skills, (v) provision of primary health care etc.

The Planning Commission examined the report and suggested for initiating the identified activities through suitable schemes under appropriate supervision. An amount of Rs. 10 crores was provided to Government of Assam as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) during the Annual Plan 2006-07 to initiate the schemes.

As envisaged in the report, the Government of Assam had setup the 'Employment Generation Mission', as a registered society, in March, 2007, for implementation of the activities

under the supervision of the Department of Labour and Employment of the State Government. During the Annual Plan 2008-09 an amount of Rs. 40 crore was provided to Government of Assam as ACA for activities to be implemented by the Mission.

(c) As per available information details of the year-wise and State-wise number of job seekers (who may not necessarily be unemployed), registered with various employment exchanges, in the states of North Eastern Region (NER) as on 31st December, 2009, is as given below:—

*Year-wise and State-wise number of job seekers during 2005-09
(as on 31.12.2009)*

(in thousand)

States*	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Arunachal Pradesh	25.1	30.2	32.2	33.1	36.0
Assam	1760.8	1843.2	1938.3	2013.9	1716.4
Manipur	532.3	579.9	597	638.2	668.5
Meghalaya	38	32.1	31.3	29.5	34.6
Mizoram	34.4	44.9	49.3	54.9	52.1
Nagaland	44.3	42.6	46	48.6	53.7
Tripura	399.7	427.2	442.6	451.3	484

(* : No employment exchange is functioning in the State of Sikkim)

The year-wise and State-wise number of job seekers provided employment through employment exchanges in the States of North Eastern Region (NER) during the year 2005-09 is given in the following Table:—

*Year-wise and State-wise number of job seekers provided with employment
through employment exchanges during 2005-09*

(in thousand)

States*	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	2	3	4	5	6
Arunachal Pradesh	#	#	0.1	#	—
Assam	0.4	1.1	0.4	0.7	2.9
Manipur	0.3	0.1	#	0.2	—
Meghalaya	#	#	#	#	0.1

1	2	3	4	5	6
Mizoram	—	#	0.3	#	—
Nagaland	#	#	0.1	#	0.1
Tripura	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.7

: Less than 50 numbers

* : No employment exchange is functioning in the State of Sikkim

— : No data available

In addition employment has also been provided through private sector in NER.

Special status to Rajasthan

3272. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of States accorded special status and the condition/criteria under which they are being accorded the special status during the last five years;

(b) whether the demand for grant of special category status by the State Government of Rajasthan is still pending; and

(c) if so, the reasons for pendency and by when the said status is likely to be granted to Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) Special Category Status for allocation of Central Assistance to State Plans has generally been accorded in the past to States on the basis of a set of criteria that *inter alia* include hilly and difficult terrain, low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population, strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries, economic and infrastructural backwardness and non-viable nature of State finances. States under this category had a low resource base and were not in a position to mobilize resources for their development needs. There are 11 States at present which have been granted Special Category Status *viz.*, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand. The decision to grant special category status to any State is taken by the National Development Council (NDC) based on an integrated consideration of all the factors listed above. During the last five years Special Category Status has not been granted to any State.

(b) and (c) The request for grant of Special Category Status was made by the Government of Rajasthan. Planning Commission has communicated to the Government of Rajasthan that “It is the considered view of the Planning Commission that for any State seeking special category status on account of State specific problems, it would be more appropriate to provide Financial Assistance/Additional Central Assistance (ACA) etc. as has been the practice so far, on a case by case basis.”