

(c) There is an allocation of Rs. 2000 crore for the scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. No grant has been released since the beginning of the current Plan, as the scheme is under revision.

(d) Curriculum has been designed for about 150 vocational courses and several of these courses are related to agriculture and rural areas.

(e) Specific amounts are not earmarked for individual States under the scheme. Sanctions are given based on the viability of the proposals received from the States.

Transportation of foodgrains for PDS

*244. SHRIMATI. T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to ensure greater monitoring in the transportation of foodgrains for Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) the steps being taken to ensure timely transportation of foodgrains to remote tribal areas, especially during calamities like floods; and

(c) the details of subsidies being given for transportation of foodgrains to remote hilly and tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Monthly movement plan is prepared by FCI for moving stocks through rail and road from surplus regions of the country to deficit regions on the basis of monthly foodgrain allocation under Public Distribution System (PDS), Other Welfare Scheme (OWS), other *ad hoc* allocations, vacant storage capacity and likely procurement etc. Movement of foodgrains are monitored by FCI and Department of Food and Public Distribution on regular basis. In case of natural calamities like floods, movement of rakes is monitored and wherever necessary matter is taken up with Railways and concerned State Governments to ensure that there is no shortage of foodgrains.

(c) Government of India has introduced Hill Transport Subsidy Scheme in 11 States/UTs. Under the scheme, Government of India through FCI is reimbursing the cost of transporting foodgrains from FCI base depots to Principal Distribution Centres located in the State to meet the heavy expenditure involved on movement of foodgrains in hilly, difficult and remote areas so that foodgrains prices remain within the reach of PDS beneficiaries.

Vacant posts of loco pilots in Railways

*245. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 7000 posts of loco pilots are lying vacant and there is acute shortage of drivers;

(b) whether Railway Drivers' Union has alleged that most of the loco pilots are fatigued due to acute staff crunch and long hours of duty;

(c) whether Indian Railway Loco Running Men Organisation (IRLRO) has complained that several thousand drivers are being assigned petty clerical or personal assistance jobs at various offices of Railways; and

(d) the steps Government would take to fill-up these 7000 vacant posts immediately and make arrangements to depute all the drivers to their designated work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) There are vacancies in the category of Loco Pilots and these vacancies have arisen over the last few years. Presently, action has been initiated to fill up these vacancies.

(b) No Union, as mentioned in part (b) of the question is known to Ministry of Railways.

(c) Railways being a vast organization receive complaints from time to time from various sources, including unrecognized unions, as mentioned in part (c) of the question.

(d) After streamlining the working of Railway Recruitment Boards, Centralized Employment Notifications in respect of about 40,000 posts have been issued to fill in vacancies, which includes post of Assistant Loco Pilots. The process is already on. Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Loco Pilots are discharging their designated jobs including stationary jobs like Crew Controllers/Traction Loco Controllers.

National Institute of Technology in Goa

*246. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Technology (NIT) has been started in the State of Goa;

(b) if so, the premises wherefrom it has started functioning;

(c) the details of faculty and number of students admitted;

(d) the total number of seats available in the institution at present;

(e) the seats reserved for students of the State of Goa;

(f) the number of seats that would be available in future alongwith number of seats that would be available for students of Goa; and

(g) the details of land acquired, if any, for new premises and the proposed plan of construction of new premises?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) National Institute of Technology, Goa has started functioning from the academic year 2010-2011 in its temporary campus at Goa College of Engineering, Farnagudi, Ponda, Goa. An annual intake of 30 students in each of the three branches (total 90) viz. Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering and Electrical and Electronics Engineering has been approved. As per the