

to fill up the backlog vacancies of SCs and STs. The drive is still going on and is being monitored at apex level so as to complete the same expeditiously.

Special Recruitment Drive for wiping out the backlog vacancies of OBCs could not be launched due to the restriction in filling of not more than 50% reserved vacancies including the carried forward vacancies in a recruitment year. This restriction is not applicable in clearing the backlog vacancies of SCs/STs. There is no reservation for OBCs in promotion posts.

(c) and (d) The number of vacancies of SCs/STs which have been filled up and the number of vacancies remaining unfilled as on 31.03.2006 both in recruitment and promotion categories in SCs/STs are as under:—

Particulars	Recruitments				Promotion			
	Filled up		Balance©		Filled up		Balance	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
Group A	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	2	16	7
Group B	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	59	35	65	57
Group C	1115	925	734	1349	7664	5480	2998	5449
Group D	2191 *	3467	Nil	Nil	4089	3167	1187	3339
TOTAL	3306	4392	734	1349	11814	8684	8852	8822

Note* Includes 1364(532 SCs and 832 STs) selected candidates whose offer of appointments are under issue subject to verification.

@ The balance number of vacancies left unfilled are at advanced stage of recruitment in Group 'C' through Railway Recruitment Boards.

New rail line from Valsad to Nasik

†*510. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the final survey conducted for construction of new railway line from Valsad (Gujarat) to Nasik (Maharashtra); and

(b) the provisions made for constructing this new railway line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) (a) No such survey work has been sanctioned.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.