

comparable and earning and expenditure is, in fact, a subset of the finances of the entire Indian Railways.

(c) No, Sir. On the contrary, South Central Railway received an allotment of Development Fund to the tune of ₹ 167.62 crores in the year 2011-12 (3rd highest among all the Zonal Railways) and ₹ 318.40 crores in the year 2012-13 (4th highest among all the Zonal Railways).

(d) Zone-wise allotment of funds for expansion, modernization, development and replacement depends on works in progress and new works are taken up by the zonal railways based on the overall freight and passenger traffic handled by that Zonal Railway and on the availability of resources.

(e) and (f) The present practice of allotment of funds to zones is proposed to be continued.

#### **Policy to start research in polytechnic institutions**

†\*384. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared a scheme for the assessment/review of polytechnic institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme will also be applicable to private polytechnic institutions; and

(d) by when this scheme is proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) There is no scheme specially prepared for the assessment/review of Polytechnic Institutions in the country. However, funds are released to the polytechnics under the Sub-Mission on Polytechnics based on fulfilment of criteria stipulated under the scheme. In addition, All India Council for the Technical Education (AICTE) conducts inspection visits based on its Regulations. These Regulations are applicable to private polytechnic institutions also.

#### **Scarcity of funds for railway projects**

\*385. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last few years, Railways have been incapable of coping with increasing transport demand and also raising/improving the traffic volume and flows at lower unit cost of operation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.