

(a) whether Government has introduced/covered the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the progress made in covering this scheme and the reasons therefor; if any?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) was launched in 2003-04 with a view to reducing regional imbalances and speed up development in the identified backward areas. The Scheme had envisaged allocation of Rs. 45 crore to each of the 147 identified backward districts, which was to be released in six installments of Rs. 7.50 crore each. Consequent upon launch of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme in 2006-07, the RSVY was subsumed in the BRGF so that the backward districts of RSVY could continue to draw their balance entitlement and the works on the ongoing schemes taken up under the RSVY were not disrupted. By 31.12.2009, all the 147 districts had claimed their full entitlement of Rs. 45 crore each under the RSVY.

Termination of Purchase Preference Policy

3038. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER of be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government decided to terminate Purchase Preference Policy (PPP) in order to enhance competition;

(b) if so, the reasons to continue giving purchase preference to Kendriya Bhandar thereby denying competition;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give purchase preference to firms/companies owned by disabled persons to establish them to earn their livelihood and if not, reasons thereof;

(d) whether Government has reviewed PPP as directed by Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof;

(e) the present status of PPP and the types of organizations etc. which are eligible to get purchase preference as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The General Financial Rules (GFR), 2005 which prescribes policy for procurement, expenditure etc. by the Government do not contain any provision relating to a Purchase Preference Policy. However, under Rules 144 of the GFR, some items have been reserved for exclusive purchase from the Khadi Village Industries Commission. The Central Government has also reserved some items for purchase from registered

small scale units. Some Ministries/Departments have also notified such a policy in regard to a particular category of bidders or products.

(b) Keeping in view the avowed objectives of the cooperative movement to ensure supply of goods and services to the consumers at economical and competitive prices, it was decided to give a purchase preference to the Kendriya Bhandar.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Kendriya Bhandar/this Department.

(d) In the absence of a specific case in which such direction has been given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, details cannot be furnished.

(e) As in reply to (a) above.

Vacant post in Ministries and Departments

3039. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many posts in the officers' level of the Central Secretariat Service, particularly at the level of Section Officers and Under Secretaries, are lying vacant in various Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to clear the backlog;

(c) the details of vacancies' position under different categories, the number of vacancies filled up during the year and the number of vacancies carried forward from the year 2003 onwards for both examination and promotion quotas in respect of Section Officers and Under Secretaries, year-wise; and

(d) the reasons for not filling up the posts on regular basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

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| (a) | Section Officer grade | Under Secretary grade |
| | Yes | No |
| (b) | The reason for vacancies in Section Officers grade is pending Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) for three years i.e. 2009, 2010 and 2011. UPSC has recently conducted the combined examination for these three years on 15th-16th December, 2012. On declaration of the results by UPSC, | |