

Development of trade routes in Bihar

†*98. DR. C. P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether Government is contemplating to develop trade and commerce in Bihar by connecting its railway stations with any harbour as both trade and development of Bihar are hampered because it is a land-locked State and it does not have any sea route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): A number of States in India including Bihar are land-locked and do not have any sea route. The nearest major port from Bihar is Kolkata. It is the endeavour of the Union Government that all regions and States of India economically develop to their potential, and the transportation network of India through railway, roadway and internal waterway facilitate trade and commerce of such land-locked States. For Bihar, other than a network of National Highways covering about 4106 KM in length in the State, including part of NH2 which connects the State to Kolkata, the route of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor of Railways envisages traversing 93 KM in Bihar, and National Inland Waterway (NW-I) also passes through Patna in Bihar.

Delay in promotion of engineers by BRO

*99. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has withheld the promotion of 25 posts from AE (Civil) to AEE (Civil) since May, 2013, even after approval of UPSC, due to vigilance problems against two candidates, out of which one had already retired and the promotion of other one has already been approved one and half year ago; and

(b) if so, whether the department is planning to notify the promotion of remaining 23 posts at an early date and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) A meeting of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) was held on 31.5.2013 in UPSC for promotion of Assistant Engineers (Civil) against 25 vacant posts of Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil) in BRO for the vacancy year 2012-13. Accordingly, DPC recommended names of 25 Assistant Engineers (Civil) for promotion. Thereafter, as per extant Government

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

guidelines on the subject, fresh vigilance clearance was obtained in respect of all the 25 officers before issuance of the promotion order. As per the vigilance status received, one officer was not clear from vigilance angle. Meanwhile he has retired on superannuation on 30.9.2013. Promotion orders in respect of remaining 24 Assistant Engineers (Civil) who were clear from vigilance angle have been issued.

Bonded labour in Tamil Nadu

*100. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 58 girls aged between 25 to 30 years were rescued from Gem Agro Exports located at Manikattipudur on the Tiruchengode Road, which indicated that bonded labour exists in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Government has the State-wise statistics of existing bonded labour in India; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take against the Collector and District Magistrate who are authorized by Government but have not implemented the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act in their districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) 59 girls aged between 13 and 29 were rescued from the Gem Agro Exports located at Manikattipudur on 18.11.2013.

(b) The bonded labour system has been abolished by law throughout the country with effect from 25.10.1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. As and when existence of bonded labour is detected, such people are identified for rehabilitation.

(c) Under the Act, it is the duty of the State Governments to confer such powers and impose such duty on a District Magistrate as may be necessary to ensure that the provisions of the Act are properly carried out. The State Governments are also required to constitute Vigilance Committees in each district and each sub-division. It is the responsibility of the State Government to take action against the District Magistrate, if they are not implementing the provisions of the Act.
