

supplementing old and obsolete tools and equipment. The scheme will continue up to 31st March 2017 at a revised cost of ₹ 149.80 crore with a new component for 'establishment of 14 ITIs' in 7 North-eastern States.

Ministry of Rural Development has received applications for 75 projects covering 1,79,970 candidates under Aajeevika Skills in North East States. In addition to this, 6 projects have been sanctioned for skilling 21,025 candidates in North-Eastern States in the year 2013-14.

National Skill Development Corporation has 14 Partner's Active in the North-east region (an on 31st March 2014) and has provided training to 34,449 persons.

Interim relief of 7th Pay Commission for Central Government Employees

2814. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the 7th Pay Commission for the Central Government Employees;

(b) whether Government has finalized proposal to give Interim Relief; and

(c) if so, the quantum of relief ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The 7th Central Pay Commission has already been set up *vide* Resolution dated 28th February, 2014. The Commission has started functioning.

(b) and (c) No proposal for grant of Interim Relief to Central Government employees is at present under consideration of the Government.

Contribution of private banks

†2815. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of banks working in the private sector in the country and the contribution of these banks in the ambitious plans of the country; and

(b) whether the banks in the private sector help in disbursing loans to the SCs, STs, educated unemployed persons and persons with disabilities, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) There are twenty private sector banks

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.