(b) No, Sir.

275

2013

(c) At present, in the UPSC, there is no member from OBC Category.

Chinese-built mega port terminal in Sri Lanka

220

110

*536. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a China-built mega port terminal with seventy per cent of project cost met with financial assistance from the China Development Bank has opened up in Sri Lanka's capital; and
- (b) whether this facility could be potentially used by China for strategic military purposes in the future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Colombo South Container Terminal (CSCT) located at Colombo Port has been developed by the Colombo International Container Terminals Ltd. (CICT) which is a joint venture company between China Merchant Holdings International (CMHI) and Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA). The project involved an investment of US\$ 500 million and has been financed by a loan of US\$ 350 million from the China Development Bank with the rest of the capital to be raised by shareholders equity. The project was completed in April, 2014. The development of CSCT has been undertaken with the objective of expansion of Colombo Port to cater to the increasing demand of services in the international shipping industry.

Status of the Planning Commission

- *537. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the post of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission is vacant, if so, the reasons therefor;

- (b) whether the powers of the Commission are to be clipped; and
- (c) the mandate of the Commission likely to be changed with the new Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO): (a) Yes Sir. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has not been appointed at present. As per the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961, all business allocated to department under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 shall be disposed of by, or under the general or special directions of the Minister - in-charge. Planning Commission has been allocated business *vide* entry 49 of these Rules. The MoS (Planning) has been given Independent Charge to discharge function as Minister-in-charge. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal at present.

Cases of tigers affected by CDV, FMD and KFD

*538. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the reported spread of Certain Deadly Viruses (CDV), Foot and Mouth Disease virus (FMD), Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) virus hitting tiger sanctuaries and parks across the country, including Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the number of cases of tigers reported to be affected from CDV, FMD and KFD during the last three years, sanctuary/park-wise; and
- (c) the quarantine measures taken by Government to prevent big cats falling prey to these viruses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. While tiger deaths due to Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) have not been reported from tiger States, only a single case of tiger mortality due to Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) has been confirmed from the Pilibhit area of Uttar Pradesh in November, 2013. Based on discussion with experts and field officers, and advice from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), and the Wildlife Institute of India, the tiger States have been advised by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for monitoring and taking precautionary measures against spread of Canine Distemper Virus. On receiving an alert from the Regional Office of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Bengaluru regarding prevalence of Foot and Mouth Disease and Kyasanur Forest Disease in and