

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide more opportunities to the candidates of general category for appearing in the Civil Services Examinations as are available to the candidates of backward classes;

(b) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. From the Civil Services Examination, 1995, the upper age limit for other Backward Class candidates has been increased from 28 to 31 years with 7 chances. The upper age limit for general category candidates has been fixed at 28 years with 4 chances.

[English]

#### Teesta-Torsha Express

2558. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether coaches provided in Teesta Torsha Express are almost dilapidated; and

(b) the steps being taken to replace those coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) No, Sir. The coaches of Teesta Torsha Express are being given regular maintenance attention to keep them in good fettle. The condition of the coaches is monitored and in case of any specific complaint, corrective action including disciplinary action against the defaulting staff is taken.

(b) The coaches are condemned on age cum condition basis and the coaches which do not meet safety requirements are not put to use.

#### Population Clocks

2559. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of population clocks so far manufactured by Hindustan Machine Tools;

(b) the cost of each population clock, and

(c) the number of population clocks so far installed in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (c) The Hindustan Machine Tools have manufactured seven population Clocks for the Department of Family Welfare. The State-wise location of these clocks vis-a-vis the cost thereof is as under :

S. No.	State	Location	Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Delhi	Inter-State Bus Terminus	14.19
2.	Delhi	All India Institute of Medical Sciences	14.14
3.	Delhi	Pragati Maidan (F.W. Pavilion)	1.16
4.	Delhi	Nirman Bhavan	Complimentary
5.	Chandigarh	Tribune Office	13.21
6.	Karnataka	Bangalore Bus Stand	6.30
7.	Uttar Pr.	Lucknow (Civil Hospital)	6.30

[Translation]

#### Stoppage at Rampura Beri

2560. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for providing a stoppage of Link Express at Rampura Beri between Loharu Sadulpur under Bikaner Division of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) to (c) The proposal to provide stoppage of Link Express at Rampura Beri has been examined but not found justified due to lack of traffic.

#### Pension

2561. PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from various categories of the Ex-servicemen regarding anomalies in the one time increase in pension granted to them;

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon;

(c) whether there are still categories which have not been benefited under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to solve their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) The Scheme for One time Increase (OTI) in pension to pre 1.1.86 Defence pensioners was sanctioned by the Government on

16.3.1992. Government have been receiving representations from ex-servicemen and their Associations about certain anomalies in the Scheme. To examine these anomalies and the claims of certain left out categories, an Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee was set up by the Government on 9.7.1992. On recommendations of this Empowered Committee, nine additional categories of pensioners have also been granted One Time Increase in Pension. The Committee however, did not recommend grant of OTI to certain categories such as re-employed pensioners, DSC pensioners, family pensioners etc., as they did not satisfy the criteria for grant of One Time Increase in Pension.

#### Discovery of New Planet

2562. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether astronomers at the University of California, Berkeley (U.S.A.) have confirmed the existence of a planet orbiting the star named — '51 pegasus';

(b) if so, the extent of corroboration or disagreement voiced by Indian astronomical bodies and scientists on the above discovery;

(c) whether Indian Astronomical Bodies have interacted with the International Astronomical Union with regard to data prepared in this connection; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Observations by the University of California, Berkeley (U.S.A.) and Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics (U.S.A.) confirm the existence of a planet around 51 Pegasi.

(b) Indian astrophysics community agrees that the observational data published in 'Nature' in November, 1995 clearly indicates the presence of a planet of mass similar to that of Jupiter around 51 Pegasi.

(c) and (d) Indian astronomers have been regularly receiving International Astronomical Union (IAU) communications on 51 Pegasi.

#### Connecting Gandhinagar With National Capital

2563. SHRI HARI SINGH CHAVDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 332 on March 14, 1995 and state :

(a) whether the report regarding survey for connecting Gandhinagar with Delhi has been received by the Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when it is expected to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) to (c) The survey report has not yet been received. It is now expected to be received by 31.1.96.

#### Salt Trade

2564. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the salt trade is being captured by the multi-national companies and the small traders involved therein are forced to leave the trade because of the compulsion of the iodised salt in the country;

(b) the number of employees working in the industry and the number of traders likely to be rendered jobless as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for providing alternative business to the small traders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are about 9000 manufacturers and approximately 1.75 Lakhs labourers engaged in the salt production in the country. As there is no multi-national company engaged in the production of iodised/common salt in the country, the question of salt manufacturers/labourers/traders being rendered jobless does not arise.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.

#### Dead Satellites

2565. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Dead satellites pose danger to business" appearing in the 'Statesman' on November 18, 1995;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the World wide Web of satellites being launched to provide telephone services are at the risk of being hit by space debris of satellites; and

(d) the preventive measures proposed to be taken by the Government?