

Railways to declare, wherever it is feasible, Sleeper Class coaches of Mail/Express trains as unreserved Second Class coaches on specific sections for the use of such passengers.

(b) On Southern Railway including the State of Kerala, some of the Sleeper Class coaches running on certain Mail/Express and Passenger trains have been declared as unreserved Second Class coaches between specified pairs of stations. In addition, short distance passengers have also been permitted to travel in Sleeper Class coaches of certain trains on the Coimbatore-Palghat-Mangalore and Coimbatore-Palghat-Kanniyakumari (via Alleppey as well as Kottayam) sections. Season Ticket holders, however, have not been permitted this facility.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Autonomous Institutions/Colleges**

694. SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have conducted/propose to conduct any survey in regard to curriculum developed by the autonomous institutions/colleges affiliated to the various universities;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome of the survey if conducted already; and

(c) the follow-up steps being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). At the instance of the Department of Education, the University Grants Commission had appointed an Expert Committee to review the implementation of the Scheme of Autonomous Colleges. This Committee studied the various aspects of functioning of autonomous colleges, including the curriculum developed by them, and submitted its report to UGC in March, 1991. The Committee, inter-alia, recommended that the scheme has produced desirable results and should be strongly supported. The report of the Committee was accepted by UGC in its meeting held on 6th June, 1991.

UGC has informed that Commission will be organising workshops for non-autonomous colleges to create an awareness about the concept of autonomy amongst the college Principals and encourage them to move in the direction of achieving autonomy.

#### **Firing Range**

695. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO :  
SHRI K.M. MATHEW :  
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Gaya area in Bihar is being contemplated for locating a firing range;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rehabilitation package being proposed for the land oustees;

(d) whether it was proposed earlier to set up the firing range in Champaran district of Bihar; and

(e) if so, the reasons for dropping this site?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMANTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c). Local Army authorities in Bihar have sent a proposal to Government of Bihar for a Field Firing Range in which Gaya area also falls. However, State Government of Bihar has not taken any decision on this. Since at present not even in-principle decision to acquire this land has been taken by the State Government, no rehabilitation package can be drawn.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Pension to Veterans of World War-II**

696. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :  
SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether World War-II veterans are not getting any pension or financial assistance from the Government;

(b) whether the Committee on Problems of ex-Service-men has recommended for some such relief to World War-II veterans;