

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 PARLIAMENTARY 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;

(c) whether the Government promised to consider the recommendation favourably way back in December, 1994; and

(d) if so, the present position of the said case?

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). During the Second World War a large number of persons were recruited to the British Indian Army for the duration of War for short periods ranging from 2 to 6 years. They were retrenched after the termination of War. They were paid admissible war/service gratuity as full compensation for the service rendered by them. Since, they had not put in the requisite minimum qualifying service for pension, they were not eligible for service pension.

2. The demand of the World War II Veterans for grant of pension was considered by the Committee on Problems of ex-Servicemen. The Committee did not find the demand acceptable because pension could not be given without linkage to a minimum period of service. The Committee, however, recommended that World War II Veterans might be given some financial assistance under any of the on-going welfare schemes.

3. In December, 1994, it was mentioned that the recommendation of that Committee was under consideration of the Government. The said recommendation was examined and not found feasible.

Sr./Jr. Hindi Translators

697. SHRI NARAYAN SINGH CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of qualifications prescribed by Staff Selection Commission for appointment of Senior/Junior Hindi Translators in different Ministries for 1993 batch;

(b) whether some candidates were recommended for appointment to the posts of Senior/Junior Hindi Translators for 1993 batch by the Commission which have not fulfilled the requisite qualifications; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) No such case has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Qualifications prescribed by SSC Senior/Junior for Hindi Translators Examination, 1993.

Senior Hindi Translators

Master's degree of a recognised University in Hindi/English with English/Hindi as main subject (which includes the term compulsory and elective) at degree level.

Or

Master's degree of a recognised University in any subject with English and Hindi as main subject/which includes the term compulsory and elective at degree level.

Junior Hindi Translators

Master's degree in English/Hindi with Hindi/English as a compulsory and elective subject at degree level;

Or

Bachelor's degree with Hindi and English as main subjects/which includes the term compulsory and elective.

[Translation]

Early Allotment

698. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2600 on August 21, 1995 and state:

(a) whether his Ministry has written to DDA for early allotment of lands to various oil companies;

(b) whether the criteria of 'first come first serve' is followed;

(c) if so, the time by which remaining applications are likely to be disposed of;