

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen

310. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of ex-servicemen in Gujarat as on date district-wise;
- (b) the amount provided for rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen during the last three years State-wise;
- (c) the facilities provided by the Government for rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen;
- (d) whether the Government propose to increase the amount to be provided for rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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 (e). The total number of ex-Servicemen registered with various Zila Sainik Boards in Gujarat as on December 31, 1995 was as under :-

Zila Sainik Board in Gujarat	No. of ex-Servicemen registered
Ahmedabad	3532
Jamnagar	2756
Surat	947
Vadodra	1947
Total	9182

2. The rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen has been accepted as a joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The welfare programmes of the State Government for ex-Servicemen are mainly funded from the earnings of the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen in the States. The Kendriya Sainik Board also bears 50 per cent of cost of the establishment of the Rajya Sainik and Zila Sainik Boards. The balance 50 per cent cost is borne by the respective State Governments.

3. During the year 1995-96, a sum of Rs. 2.40 crore has been sanctioned by the Central Government from the National Defence Fund to the 12 State and UT Governments for augmentation of their Special Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen.

4. There is a comprehensive package of welfare and resettlement measures for the ex-Servicemen. The Central Government have provided reservation for ex-Servicemen in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in the Central Government Departments as well as Public Sector Undertakings including the Nationalised Banks. In Para Military Forces,

a reservation of 10% is also provided in posts of Assistant Commandants. Recruitment in Defence Security Corps is primarily reserved for ex-Servicemen. In addition, the Government of Gujarat has provided 10% and 20% reservation in Group 'C' & 'D' posts in State Government Departments and its Undertakings. Besides, 25% of vacancies in Veterinary Services/Animal Husbandry Services Class I and II, which are filled by direct selection are also reserved for ex-Servicemen. Ex-Servicemen are also given relaxation in age and educational qualifications both by the Central and the State Governments for seeking re-employment.

5. Schemes have been introduced for providing self-employment opportunities to ex-Servicemen. These include, the SEMFEX-I scheme which provides financial assistance for setting up small industrial projects; the SEMFEX-II scheme to take up gainful farm and non-farm activities in rural areas; SEMFEX-III scheme to provide self-employment opportunities through promotion of Khadi & Village industries in the rural areas, preferential allotment of Petroleum product Agencies to war widows and disabled ex-servicemen, allotment of Unit Trust of India Agencies etc. Training programmes are arranged for improving their employability. Ex-servicemen are authorised for free medical facilities in military hospitals and canteen facilities at the nearest CSD canteens. Other welfare activities include free education for children of Armed Forces personnel killed or disabled in action; reservation of seats in professional courses for the wards of Service personnel killed/disabled and boarded out in action; re-imburement of 60% expenditure incurred by ex-servicemen on serious diseases such as Cancer, Kidney transplant, By-pass surgery & Coronary surgery; concession in rail and domestic air travel by Indian Airlines to war widows and gallantry award winners. In addition, financial assistance is provided from Raksha Mantri's Discretionary Fund to ex-servicemen/widows for construction repair of house, medical treatment, daughter's marriage etc.

Concessions to Senior Citizens

311. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have very recently decided to further liberalise concessions in the rail fare for senior citizens in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the existing rail concessions available for senior citizens and the concessions announced recently with conditionalities thereof;
- (c) whether the Age-Care Society has sometime back submitted a memorandum requesting for liberalisation of the concessions for senior citizens;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the recently announced concessions satisfy the demands of the Age-Care Society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Senior citizens aged 65 years and above are presently eligible for 25% rail concession in Second/Sleeper classes for journeys covering 500 kms and more. The above concessions has now been made applicable without any distance restriction.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Age Care India, a registered society, had made the following requests :-

- (i) enhancement of the concession from 25% to 50%.
- (ii) Extension to all classes.
- (iii) Revision of the age limit from 65 to 60 years and

(iv) Removal of the distance restriction.

(e) Removal of distance restriction.

Gauge Conversion

312. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the current position of the progress made in different projects of Gauge Conversion;

(b) whether the targets set for Eighth Five Year Plan so far have been achieved by the Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) The details are as under :-

STATEMENT

No.	Name of the Section	Kms	Cost in Crs.	Progress
1.	Parasia-Chhindwara	29	24	The work is nearing completion and will be commissioned within the financial year 95-96.
2.	Miraj-Latur	259	225	The work has been taken up between Kurduwadi and Pandharpur. Between Kurduwadi-Latur and Latur-Latur Road new line portion will be completed in a phased manner over the coming years.
3.	Jodhpur-Marwar	100	58	Work is being taken up under BOLT scheme and is expected to be completed in 1996-97.
4.	Chhapra-Aunrihar	171	83	The work is being progressed at a fast pace and would be completed by 31.3.96.
5.	Kashipur-Lalkuan	60	45	The work is temporarily forzen.
6.	Sagauli-Narkatiaganj	59	42	Earthwork has already been completed. Work on 27 bridges out of 65 has been completed. The work is planned for completion by March '97.
7.	Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar	50	40	55% of earthwork has been completed. Yard plans have been finalised and bridge drawings are under preparation. About 15000 cums of ballast has also been collected. The work will be completed in 97-98.
8.	Khadda-Gorakhpur	86	45	Yard plans and bridge drawings are under preparation. Tenders for earth work and bridge work have been finalised. Earthwork has been started. The work will be completed during 97-98.
9.	Mau-Shahganj	99	38.70	Work is making good progress. The section is targetted to be completed in 96-97.
10.	Lumding-Dibrugarh with	628	317	Lumding-Dimapur is already linked lines commissioned. Dimapur-Furkating will be completed by 31.3.96 and Furkating-Dibrugarh and Tinsukia-Lekhapani in 96-97. Other linked fingers will be completed in 97-98.