

incorporate quick disbursement of finances and secondly, I would like to know whether they are going to give some subsidy, at least subsidy for transport for the growth centres which are earmarked.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: With regard to the financial loan facilities, they are planning to have banking facilities in the growth centres itself. There will be banking facility and it is for the entrepreneur and the banks to have a liaison.

With regard to subsidy this question does not concern subsidy and the growth centre does not envisage any subsidy.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the scheme was introduced in 1988 as stated by the Minister. Now we are in 1991 and three years have passed. The scheme is running with tortoise speed and in three years nothing concrete has been done. So far, the Maharashtra Government has not sent the project reports. We want this to be done at jet speed so that improvement can take place early.

In view of the delay, will the Minister call the Industry Minister of Maharashtra here, have a discussion with him and see that the Maharashtra proposals are passed early?

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, it is the intention of the Government of India to see that all proposals are cleared as early as possible. As regards Maharashtra proposal, the growth centres were selected in 1989 in Maharashtra and we are awaiting the project reports.

I have no objection in addressing to the Maharashtra Minister again to send the proposals as early as possible and I can assure the Member that as soon as the proposals satisfying the conditions thereon are received, we will certainly clear them.

Vacancies in Public Sector Undertaking

*327. **SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given directions to all Public Sector Undertakings to fill up the back-log of vacancies as early as possible;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any committee for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Public Sector Undertakings were directed to fill up the back-log vacancies reserved for SCs and STs through Special Recruitment Drives launched in 1989 and 1990. As a result, in 1989, 11,000 vacancies were identified in the Central PSUs out of which 8,125 could be filled. Under the Special Recruitment Drive in 1990, 10,461 vacancies were identified out of which 6,316 have been filled.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1989, 11,000 vacancies were identified, out of which 8,125 have been filled. So, the number of vacancies pending in 1989 was 2,875. In 1990, 10,461 vacancies were identified, out of which 6,316 have been filled. The number of pending vacancies in 1990 was 4,145. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the vacancies identified in 1990 were inclusive of... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order on this reply.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in Question Hour.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, the question is about vacancies in the public sector undertakings. The Minister has replied about SC and ST vacancies. This is a different reply altogether. So, this reply should be withdrawn and the Minister should come with a fresh reply...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance to put a supplementary question.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, the question is different. It is about back-log of vacancies and not of SC/ST vacancies. There is a separate question on SC/ST vacancies, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to put the same thing in your supplementary question.

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: I want to know from the Minister whether the vacancies identified in 1990 were inclusive of 2,875 posts which could not be filled during 1989 Recruitment Drive. If so, out of 2,875 posts, how many belong to SC and how many belong to ST?

SHRI P. K. THUNGOON: As regards the back-log, as the hon. Member has said that the back-log is in connection with the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a question not only for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but it is a general question.

SHRI P. K. THUNGOON: What I mean by back-log is, it is only for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

MR. SPEAKER: You may have the vacancies and you may not have filled them. O.K. carry on in your own way.

SHRI P. K. THUNGOON: That is what I am trying to say. We have back-log only for Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes. About the other question that whether the carried over back-log is counted in the subsequent year the answer is 'Yes'.

I have some figures about the actual number of vacancies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes separately. That is in Group 'A', the vacancies were 3,231 and filled up by Scheduled Castes were 1,005 and by Scheduled Tribes 340. Likewise, in Group 'B' the vacancies identified were 1,431, filled by Scheduled Castes were 458 and by Scheduled Tribes 174. In Group 'C', vacancies identified were 4,148 and the posts filled by Scheduled Castes were 1,844 and by Scheduled Tribes 1,231. In Group 'D', the vacancies identified were 1,651 and filled up by Scheduled Castes were 678 and by Scheduled Tribes 586.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is not for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is a general question. This is a question relating to the vacancies as such and not for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI P. K. THUNGOON: It has been clarified by the hon. Member himself that he wanted to know the back-log for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That is why, I am giving the figures for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Out of those left out during 1989 and in 1990 Special Recruitment Drive, what are the type of posts for which suitable candidates could not be available?

SHRI P. K. THUNGOON: Sir, we do not have much problem, so far as Group 'C' and 'D' are concerned. But in Group 'A' and 'B', we are facing some problems because of the reasons of non-availability of qualified candidates, particularly, we are facing problems in case of Engineers, Medical personnel, Para-medical, Pilots, Aircraft Engineers, Aerodrome Officers and to some extent in Finance and on Accounts side.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: I would like to know the number of vacancies during 1989 and in 1990, in the general category. We have heard the Minister saying that the vacancies were existing only in SC and ST category. By that, does he mean to say that there were no retirements at all in the year 1989 and in 1990, in the Public Sector Undertakings.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know the facts and figures about the general vacancies.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I would like to give the total number of vacancies identified. I have the list of vacancies which were existing since 1971—for almost two decades. I would like to mention about the latest figures of 1990. In 1990-91 we had 22,20,385 posts. Just now I do not have the figures of number of employees.

MR. SPEAKER: You please supply that information to the hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that the backlog of 1989 is 11000 and that of 1990 is 10,461. It has also been said that the carry forward is 3000. It has been identified in two years. I would like to submit that it was identified in 1989 and after one year there was a special drive. It means that it was not done honestly. Why was there no special drive in 1989?

[*English*]

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : There was a special drive in 1989. Again in 1990 there was a special drive. So this is a continuous process.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: There is a difference of 8-9 thousand in a year. It means that it has not been honestly identified in 1989.

[*English*]

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: We do not face any recruitment problem in group C & D, but in groups A & B we are facing problems. I would like to mention to the hon. Member the problems which we faced in recruitment in 1989.

MR. SPEAKER : He wanted to know why you were not able to fill up the vacancies in 1989.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: I wanted to know as to why there was a backlog of 7,000 vacancies in 1989,

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: The problems due to which the vacancies could not be filled up are...

MR. SPEAKER: That was the election year also.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Despite our relaxation in qualifications, age, fee, etc. we were not able to locate the targeted candidates.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: I seek your protection. I am not getting reply from the hon. Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has repeated it twice that candidates for the posts of engineers, doctors and pilots were not available. As such these vacancies could not be filled up. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any advertisement for filling up of the vacancies was given during 1989-90 and 1990-91 and whether there was no response and consequently the vacancies could not be filled up.

[*English*]

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: We advertise in the newspapers. Mr. Speaker: Complete reply is that you advertised?

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyday, we see in the Bulletin that a training programme is being organised for the newly elected Members of Parliament. My submission is that a training programme should also be organised for the newly appointed Ministers so that the time of the House is not wasted in this manner. If the Ministers are imparted proper training, a situation will not arise in which the bureaucrats will mislead the Ministers and the Ministers would be prepared to be misled like this. Mr. Speaker, sir, my question is connected with this basic question and the reply given by the hon. Minister just now. Is it not a fact that there is a ban on recruitment in Public undertakings. So far as the question of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is concerned, an hon. Member of the Congress party has said that he did not get a satisfactory reply to his question. Is it not a fact that in 1989, the Janata Dal and the National Front launched a campaign at the national level to fill up the reserved vacancies meant for scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and is action being taken now in that connection the outcome of that campaign? (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Which party was in power in 1989? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : That is the factual position.

[*English*]

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: The most vigorous drive was conducted in 1989 during the time of Congress regime while Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister. And I should not deny that in 1990 also the drive was continued and the drive still continues in this regard. As about the other point which the hon. Member has raised, I think he is not prepared to listen to my reply. Then, how can I help him?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister said in his reply that there are certain difficulties in filling up these vacancies, because these are technical posts viz. doctors, engineers and pilots etc. Just now a Member asked a question whether any advertisement of these vacancies was given and the hon. Minister did not give any satisfactory reply. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that hon. Prime Minister is present in the House and I would request him to pay attention to thousands of doctors, engineers, pilots and ground-engineers who are jobless. Scores of people come to us for employment and we are not able to provide them any job. This time I contested the elections from Bihar. In Bihar, clearance to open a Medical College and an Engineering College is not being given on the ground that there are hundreds of unemployed doctors and engineers in that State. May I know from the hon. Minister that if at all any advertisement was given after these posts fell vacant, how many applications were received in response to it and the reasons for not considering the applications of the persons fulfilling the prescribed qualifications and the reasons for not appointing them. Please let me know the time by which vacancies would be filled up.

MR. SPEAKER: It is concerned with different Ministries. Please furnish the information if you have any.

[*English*]

SRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The Prime Minister can give a comprehensive answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have the information?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I need a separate notice for this.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM: Notice for what? You do

not give a complete reply and you want a notice. (*Interruptions*)

Have you not said that qualified people are not available? You have just now said. I said they are available. Don't mislead the House.

SHRI P. K. THUNGO : Sir, I would like to say that it is a problem in which everyone of us is worried because we are not getting adequate number of candidates of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would certainly like the cooperation of hon. Members in this regard to see that there is no backlog. If the hon. Members are getting certain candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I would certainly welcome their cooperation.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1974, a High-powered Cabinet Committee under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Indira Gandhi had issued instructions to the various Ministries, Departments, Public Undertakings and other Government organisations that those officers who are responsible for the backlog in the various Ministries and Departments, as far as the recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is concerned, will have to face disciplinary action. I do not agree to this view that just because there are no proper candidates from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there is the backlog. I believe that one of the most important reasons is the prejudice in the officers who are responsible to fill in the vacancies. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that as per the instructions of the High-Powered Cabinet Committee in 1974, which gave instructions to take disciplinary action... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Are you talking about 1974?

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Sir, I am only asking whether in these seventeen years any one single officer was penalised for being responsible for the backlog in the vacancies.

MR. SPEAKER: From 1974 up to this time, was anybody penalised for not recruiting?

SHRI P. K. THUNGO: Sir, so far as the policy part is concerned, it pertains to the Ministry of Personnel and Training, but so far as this particular question about public sector undertakings is concerned, I would like to assure the hon. Member that we are taking action against those who do not follow the directives of the Government properly. As regards the particular question whether anyone has been penalised, I would not be able to say now. The Department of Personnel may be able to say.

[*Translation*]

Prices of Pulses

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*328. SHRI RABI RAY:

SHRI RAM BADAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of pulses have increased during the last six months;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in the prices and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide pulses at concessional rates to the consumers; and

(d) the quantity of pulses likely to be provided to Uttar Pradesh during the current year?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) The Wholesale Price Index (W.P.I.) of Pulses as a sub-Group moved from 231.5 in December, 1990 to 239.6 in June, 1991 registering an increase of 3.5 per cent only against an increase of 4.7% in the W.P.I. of all commodities in the same period.

(c) No, Sir.