

(a) the total number of posts reserved for SCs/STs lying vacant in the Ministry and departments and undertakings under his Ministry as on 30 June, 1997;

(b) the date from which these posts are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to fill up these vacancies ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Implementation of Motor Vehicle Act, 1993

2937. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDAY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made arrangement to ensure the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1993 and Section 97 of the said Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main rules enshrined in the Motor Vehicle Act, 1993 and section 97 of the said act ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) There is no Act as Motor Vehicle Act, 1993. Also, there are no main rules of Motor Vehicle Act, 1993 since the Act itself does not exist.

Parliament Control on Government Funds

2938. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Times of India dated May 9, 1997 under the heading "Parliament has no control over 80% of the Government funds"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes, Please.

(b) The news item has mainly referred to large

governmental expenditure which is classified as 'charged' on the Consolidated Funds of India and the incidence of rush of expenditure in March. Provisions for 'charged' expenditure are duly budgeted and even though these are not subject to vote of Parliament, the 'charged' expenditure is included in the Appropriation Bill, which is approved by the Parliament.

As regards rush of expenditure in March, instructions to Ministries/Departments are already existing for ensuring that the expenditure budgeted for the year should be evenly spread so as to avoid rush of expenditure towards the close of the financial year. However, such items of expenditure are not unauthorised since these are incurred out of the provision sanctioned in the Budget as per the Appropriation Act.

[Translation]

Espionage Activities at Bihata IAF Airport

2939. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any incident of espionage occurred at Bihata airport of Air Force recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons arrested in this regard;

(c) whether any important clue was received during the interrogation; and.

(d) if not, the steps the Government propose to take to check such espionage activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, on 20th August, 1996 a College student tried to enter Air Force Station, Bihata impersonating as an airman, who was apprehended and handed over to Civil Police.

[English]

Kerosene

2940. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are spending huge amount in the form of subsidy for kerosene oil;

(b) whether the Government are aware that in some States Kerosene oil is distributed in big cities and not adequately supplied to poor villagers;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the malpractices in the distribution of kerosene oil

in rural and hilly areas;

(d) whether kerosene is being mixed in diesel oil and is also supplied to well-to-do persons who have gas connections; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) The subsidy on Kerosene oil is met through the oil pool account mechanism. The estimated subsidy on Kerosene oil during the last three years is given below :

	Rs./Crs.	Rs./Ltr.
1994-95	3740	3.39
1995-96	4190	3.69
1996-97	6350	5.18

(b) to (e) SKO is a deficit product and deficit is met by imports. The Central Government makes only bulk allocation of SKO to the States/UTs. Its retail distribution to the different areas including the rural areas within the State is the responsibility of the State Government. The scale of distribution and entitlement of individuals for getting PDS kerosene is also decided by State Governments.

In order to check adulteration of diesel by kerosene steps such as Filter Paper Test, Furfural doping of Kerosene, Densit test, blue dyeing of Kerosene, surprise inspections by field officers of the oil companies and joint industry teams are taken. Inspections are conducted by State Government Enforcement Agencies also.

[Translation]

Funds for Science Educational Research

2941. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are not providing adequate funds and assistance for science education and research works in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide more funds for the said works;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount allocated for the science education and research works during the last two years, year-wise; and

(e) the amount of annual expenditure being incurred on science education and scientific research in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) The Govt. had provided an amount of Rs. 17.50 crore each for the purpose to UGC during 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively. The same has been stepped up to Rs. 28.00 crore in 1997-98. It is, however not always possible to meet all the demands made by the universities in this behalf to the fullest extent, due to resources crunch.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pension to Freedom Fighters

2942. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the pension and other facilities being granted to the freedom fighters on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of India's Independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this facility will also be extended to their dependents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) to (d) During the 50th year of India's Independence several demands have been received by the Government to enhance the pension being granted to freedom fighters and their eligible dependents under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Schemes of 1980. The Central Government on 10th July, 1997 had constituted a Joint Committee of Freedom Fighters and Officials to look into various problems of freedom fighters. The Joint Committee met on 28th July, 1997 and made several recommendations including enhancement of freedom fighters pension being granted to the freedom fighters and their eligible dependents. These recommendations are under active consideration of the Government.

Erosion By Ganga

2943. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working group constituted by the