

(c) The shortfall is due to non-availability of scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates for appointment against direct recruitment posts and also for promotion posts.

(d) A Special Cell has been set up to monitor the progress made in filling up the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in various departments. In order that appropriately qualified SC/ST candidates become available, reservations have been effected in all technical, semi-technical and professional courses. Free examination-coaching centres have also been set up to prepare the SC/ST candidates for competitive examinations. Separate hostel facilities have also been made available for them.

#### **Terms and Conditions of Service of employees of Sainik Schools**

1815. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the service rules under which the employees of the Sainik Schools are governed;

(b) whether such rules provide better service conditions and security of jobs of the employees as in other autonomous bodies under Central Government;

(c) whether the employees of Sainik Schools get benefits like pension, leave travel concession, gratuity medical reimbursement, encashment of earned leave, group insurance and family pensions as are available to Central Government employees;

(d) if not, whether Government have any proposal under consideration to provide such proposal under consideration to provide such benefits to Sainik School employees; and

(e) whether Government intend to take over Sainik Schools like Military Schools/ RIMC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :

(a) the employees of Sainik Schools are governed under the Rules & Regulations of the Sainik Schools Society.

(b) Job security and conditions of service of Sainik School employees are comparable to their counterparts in autonomous bodies under the Central Government. However, such comparison is not always possible because the conditions of service differ with the nature of the services.

(c) The Sainik School employees are covered by the Contributory Provident Fund scheme in lieu of pension and the Society's gratuity scheme. They are provided free accommodation or HRA in lieu thereof. Benefits like encashment of earned leave, group insurance, leave travel concession, family pension and medical reimbursement are, however, not available to them.

(d) Government had appointed an Academic Study Group to go into the working of the Sainik and Military schools. The Study Group has inter alia recommended extension of some of the above benefits to the Sainik School employees. These recommendations are under consideration.

(e) No, Sir.

#### **Tea Plantation in Orissa**

1816. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the hectares of land in Orissa covered under the tea plantation so far;

(b) the names of these areas;

(c) whether some more districts in Orissa are proposed to be brought under tea Plantation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?