

(d) whether such equipments cannot be developed and manufactured indigenously; and

(e) the Research and Development efforts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One No. versatile Vibratory Road Roller has already been procured at the cost of Rs. 24.20 lakhs and One No. Mobile Bridge Inspection Unit at the cost of Rs. 75.00 lakhs is being procured.

(c) Road Roller will be utilised through the State P.W.Ds and Bridge Inspection Unit by the Ministry.

(d) and (e). These can be developed with the research and development efforts of the Industry or transfer of technology provided sufficient demand is there.

Absorption of casual labourers

3933. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual labourers working in each of the railway zones in the country as on 31 December, 1986;

(b) the number of casual labourers absorbed during the last three years, zone-wise; and

(c) the details of norms adopted for absorbing the casual workers in railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The number of casual labour employed on Railways as on 31.12.1986, zone-wise is as under:—

Central	36221
Eastern	20168

Northern 46811

North Eastern 14529

Northeast Frontier 8326

Southern 20165

South Central 21797

South Eastern 13957

Western 21597

*The figures are provisional.

(b) Information for 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 is being collected from zonal railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) At present, barring certain exceptions, virtually all vacancies in Group 'D' (Class IV) are being filled by the screening and absorption of casual labour and substitutes. Such absorption is, however, subject to availability of vacancies and eligibility and suitability of individual casual labour for regular employment.

Purchase of Urdu Books from authors

3934. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts earmarked in the budgets for purchase of Urdu books from their authors during the past three years;

(b) the amount actually utilised during each of these years and reasons for amounts, if any remaining unutilized;

(c) the basis on which Urdu books are selected for purchase from their authors;

(d) whether there is sufficient Urdu staff for the scheme and if so, the details thereof; and