

to all the public sector banks/financial institutions to make some informal arrangements to deal with the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Employees Associations (as the same could not be recognised in terms of the policy of the Government) which, inter-alia, includes meeting of the Division Officers informally with the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Employees including their representatives and acknowledgement of the representations about reservations received from Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes Associations.

(b) and (c) The Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees in the Banking Division of the Department of Economic Affairs are governed by rules and regulations framed by the Department of Personnel & Training. Since as per policy of the Government associations of employees formed on the basis of caste, creed, religion and tribe, etc. cannot be recognised, the procedure advised to the banks for making informal arrangements is not relevant to the Banking Division, Ministry of Finance. The representations of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees in the Banking Division are, however, looked into and appropriate action is taken on the same.

Erection of High Observation Towers by Pakistan on Borders

5491. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan has erected high observation towers very close to our borders ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Government are aware that Pakistan has erected a number of observation towers along the India-Pakistan border, which are primarily used for surveillance of the border.

(c) Erection of observation towers along the border is a routine activity.

Government keep a constant watch on all developments which have a bearing on our national security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

Posting of J.M.G. Scale-I Candidates in Central Bank of India

5492. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :
SHRI BHARAT SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of general, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates posted on promotion to JMG Scale-I under All India Service Test-1986 in Central Bank of India ; and

(b) the number of general, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates posted to (i) the same zone (ii) adjoining zones, and (iii) other zones on their aforesaid promotion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Copper and Nickel Prices

5493. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently increased the prices of certain metals such as copper and nickel ;

(b) whether the prices of these metals have increased in international market also ;

(c) if so, when their prices were increased in international market and to what extent ; and

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw the increase in the prices keeping