

(a) whether the next meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers is proposed to be held in Kathmandu in August, 1988;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda proposed to be discussed in the said meeting;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India has offered certain items of its own on the agenda; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agenda given in the statement below provides for the consideration of the Report of the Standing Committee of the Foreign Secretaries, including their report on the question of admission of new members, granting of observer or guest status in the Association and establishment of relations with similar organisations. In addition, the Council will also consider reports on the implementation of certain important measures already taken particularly the ratification of the SAARC Regional Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and the establishment of the South Asian Food Security Reserve.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

Statement

*Council of Ministers : Fifth Session
Kathmandu, August 11-12, 1988*

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. General Statements.
4. Consideration of the Report of the Tenth Session of the Standing Committee.
5. Consideration of the Report of the Standing Committee on the question of admission of new members, granting of observer/guest status in the Association and the aspect of the establishment of relations with similar organisations.

6. Consideration of the Report on the review of progress on the Ratification of the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism.

7. Consideration of the Report on progress with regard to the South Asian food Security Reserve.

8. Consideration of the dates for the sixth session of the Council of Ministers.

9. Consideration of the dates for the Fourth SAARC Summit.

10. Any other matter.

11. Adoption of the Report.

Sponsoring of ST Officers for Long Term Foreign Training Courses

1099. SHRI SAMAR BRAHMA CHOUDHURY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether adequate number of Scheduled Tribe Officers were sponsored for long term foreign training courses during the years 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) if not, the steps taken to ensure that adequate number of ST officers are represented in various types of long term courses during 1989-90; and

(c) the total number of Scheduled Tribe officers proposed to be sponsored for such courses during 1989-90 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) four Scheduled Tribe Officers were sponsored for long term foreign training courses during 1988-89. Number of Scheduled Tribe Officers sponsored for long term foreign training courses during 1987-88 is three.

(b) Does not arise. However, it may be added that while making nominations for foreign training programmes it is always kept in mind that adequate representation is to given to SC/ST Officers in all courses including the long term courses,

(c) It is not possible to say at this stage as to how many Scheduled Tribe Officers will be sponsored for long term foreign training courses during 1989-90, as nominations for various foreign training courses are under process.

Inclusion of Tribal Languages in UPSC Examination

1100. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether tribal candidates are at a disadvantage in competing for the Central services, as not a single tribal language has so far been included in the UPSC examinations;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any decision to include any of the developing seven tribal languages, for which the Central Institute of Indian Languages at Mysore has prepared the reference material;

(c) the likely date by which it would be done; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Of the examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, only the scheme of the Civil Services (Main) Examination provides for an optional subject on the literature of any one of 23 languages, including the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and other important international languages. There is no proposal to include any other Indian language as an optional subject for the Examination.

The list of optional subject for the Civil Services Examination has been drawn up keeping in view various factors such as the number of candidates likely to opt for the subjects, the need to avoid too large a number of subject and the feasibility of maintaining reasonable uniformity of standards.

The scheme of the Civil Services (Main) Examination also provides for a compulsory qualifying paper of matriculation standard on any one of the Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. However, the candidates hailing from certain North Eastern States and from the State of Sikkim, who might not have got an opportunity to study an Indian language included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, are allowed exemption from appearing at the compulsory Indian Language paper.

For the Civil Services Examinations held in the past, the Commission were able to recommend the requisite number of candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribe communities against all the vacancies reserved for them.

Benches of Central Administrative Tribunal in States

1101. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Administrative Tribunal Benches in each State has since been set up;

(b) if so, the dates on which each Tribunal has been set up alongwith their composition as on date;

(c) whether any vacancies exist as on date in any one of these Benches; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the likely dates by which these would be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). 14 Benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal have been set up in different parts of the Country so far. Initially 5 Benches were established on 1.11.1985 at Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. 3 more Benches were established on 3rd March, 1986 at Bangalore, Chandigarh and Guwahati. Another 6 Benches were set up on 30th June, 1986 at Ahmedabad, Cuttack, Hyderabad, Jabalpur, Jodhpur and Patna.