

(c) whether the Navy's Naval Design Directorate primarily responsible for construction of warships, is headed by a retired officer as regular officers with suitable qualification and experience are not available to man it;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to draw up a panel of few officers and to train them fully; and

(e) how many more such directorates are headed by retired personnel in the defence headquarters and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). As INS Vikrant is due to decommissioned in the 1990s, the question of her replacement is being examined and various alternatives are being explored/evaluated.

(c) and (d). The Naval Design Directorate is currently headed by a retired Naval Officer with the requisite experience. He is considered to be the best man for this job. Serving naval personnel are also part of the design team. Training is being imparted.

(e) No other directorate of Naval Headquarters is headed by retired personnel.

Proposal to Encourage Scheduled Castes Students for Higher Education

4550. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to formulate a scheme to give cash incentives to those Scheduled Castes Students who obtain First division in Medical, Engineering, Agricultural and Veterinary courses to encourage them to go in for higher education; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) No such

proposal is under consideration before this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Reservation of Jobs for Blind in Government Department's and Public Undertakings

4551. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
SHRI KUNWAR RAM :
SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI
GUPTA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that assurance was given to the Association of Blind about reservation of jobs for the blind in various departments and public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, what is the prescribed percentage of jobs reserved for the blind in various departments of Government; and

(c) what is the progress in implementing this reservation policy ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE : (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). 1 per cent vacancies in identified group 'C' and 'D' posts are reserved for the blind in Central Government and in Central Public Sector Undertakings.

(c) The progress made in 1984, is indicated in the following table :

	1984		
Total No. of identified posts	1% of identified posts	No. filled	
Central Government			
Group 'C' 3397	34	34	
Group 'D' 1657	17	31	
Central Public Sector Undertakings			
Group 'C' 2818	28	54	
Group 'D' 1104	11	15	