

retired employees of this company are blocked in the shares of the company and if so, what action Government propose to take to provide relief to the retired employees by selling these shares in the market; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) An unsigned letter purported to be from the 'Employees' of Bird Group of Companies dated 28th December, 1977 has been received in the Department.

(b) and (c). The Savings Trust holds 49.8 per cent of the equity shares of Bird and Company Limited. The estimated liabilities of the Savings Trust as on 31st March, 1978 amounting to Rs. 58.00 lakhs include deposits by pensioners of the orders of Rs. 3 lakhs. The matter regarding the sale of the shares held by the Savings Trust is pending with the High Court of Calcutta.

पटना उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों के रूप में हरिजनों और आदिवासियों को नियुक्ति

1245. श्री एच० एल० पी० सिन्हा क्या विधि न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति के बाद पटना उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों के रूप में कितने हरिजनों, आदिवासियों तथा पिछड़ी जातियों के अन्य व्यक्तियों की नियुक्ति की गई है ; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

शिक्षा, समाज कल्याण तथा संस्कृति मंत्री (डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र) : (क) और (ख). जातिवाद सूचियां नहीं रखी जा रही हैं अतः पटना उच्च न्यायालय में पिछड़ी जातियों के आसीन न्यायाधीशों के बारे में या अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों और

पिछड़ी जातियों के अनुसूचितों की संख्या के बारे में जो बिगत काल में पटना उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश नियुक्त किए गए थे, जानकारी देना संभव नहीं है। पटना उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा दी गई जानकारी के अनुसार उस उच्च न्यायालय में अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति का कोई आसीन न्यायाधीश नहीं है।

Writ Petitions relating to Land ceiling pending in High Courts and Judicial Commissioners' Courts

1246. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of writ petitions relating to land ceiling and other land reform laws, under articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution, pending in various High Courts and Judicial Commissioners' courts as at the end of September, 1978;

(b) since when these writ petitions have been pending; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for the speedy disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). Information at the end of September, 1978 is not available. Information as on 30-6-1978 is given in the attached statement.

(b) The following steps have been taken to clear arrears:—

(i) The sanctioned strength has been increased in the High Courts in respect of which proposals were received. This increase has been made in the following High Courts from the

dates the posts are filled up.

Name of the High Court	Number of posts increased	
	Pmt.	Addl.
Allahabad	..	9
Madhya Pradesh	..	6
Karnataka	1	5
Himachal Pradesh	..	2
Patna	..	3
Rajasthan	..	1
Delhi		4
TOTAL	1	30

(ii) A substantial number of vacancies in the High Courts have been

filled up. Initiative has been taken by the Central Government to call for proposals from the State Authorities/Chief Justices and wherever necessary reminders have been issued to the concerned State Authorities/Chief Justices. During the period 1st April, 1977 to 25th November, 1978 as many as 90 fresh appointments have been made. Three *ad hoc* Judges have also been appointed under article 244A of the Constitution.

(iii) The Law Commission have also been requested to suggest suitable measures to tackle the general problem of arrears. They are seized of the matter.

(iv) Letters have been addressed to the Bar Councils and Bar Associations of various States requesting them for cooperation and also for suggestions for speedy disposal of cases.

Statement

Writ petitions relating to Land Ceiling and Land Reform Laws under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution, pending in various High Courts and Judicial Commissioner's Court as on 30-6-1978.

Name of the High Court	Number of writ petitions pending for					over 5 years	Total No of Writ Petitions pending
	Less than 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Allahabad	790	2580	737	619	25	17	4768
Andhra Pradesh	70	4	..				74
Bombay	661	1170	701	901	924	1049	5406
Calcutta	—	..					
Delhi	21	1	5	3	1	10	41
Gauhati	16	53	25	21	6	4	125
Gujarat	376	250	184	9	4	4	827
Himachal Pradesh	23	3	21	12	13	11	83
Jammu and Kashmir	16	12	8	5	—	—	41

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Karnataka	4190	4131	2064	1005	..	..	11390
Kerala	173	118	101	38	4		434
Madhya Pradesh	--	4	..	..	..	..	4
Madras	80	24	23	115	17	12	271
Orissa	29	180	54	19	49	..	331
Punjab	712	167	67	63	35	62	1106
Punjab and Haryana	421	73	64	138	113	290	1099
Rajasthan	126	174	414	178	155	208	1255
Sikkim . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	7704	8944	4468	3026	1346	1667	27155
Judicial Commissioner's Court, Gen. Daman and Diu . . . . .	..	..			..		..

Progress of Railway Electrification Works

1247. SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Controlling Committee of the Railway Board which met in 1972 to review the progress of railway electrification works on various Zonal Railways and to fix up priorities for new electrification schemes approved *inter alia* (1) Arakkonam-Jolarpettai-Bangalore and Jolarpettai-Erode (487 route kms.) and (2) Madras-Arakkonam-Guntakal-Hospet (564 route kms.) sections in the South;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Raj Committee appointed by the Railway Board in 1978 to study the question of diesel and electric traction on Indian Railways has recommended for electrification of all the sections approved by the Railway Board except the above two sections; and

(c) whether Government will include the above two sections also for electrification as the Southern region is farthest from the coal fields etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) The Controlling Committee has recommended electrification of Madras-Arkonam-Jolarpettai section, a part of Arkonam-Lolarpettai-Bangalore and Jolarpettai-Erode sections, along with other sections of the Indian Railways.

(b) No.

(c) No. The density of traffic of these sections is not sufficiently high at present to make electrification financially viable and qualify for electrification at current costs.