

their report submitted to the Government in February, 1980 the working group appointed by the Committee on Public Expenditure recommended that the Medical Store Organisation should be wound up gradually. The observations made in support of the above recommendation are still being examined and this process is likely to take some time to arrive at a final decision. Till a final decision is taken in this regard, the Expert Committee Report on the Modernisation of the Medical Store Depot, Madras has to be kept pending.

Contracts given to SC/ST in Madras and Tuticorin Port Trusts

3377. SHRI K. B. S. MANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 600 on 20-11-80 regarding contracts earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Madras and Tuticorin Port Trusts and State:

(a) whether the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have been given any contracts as mentioned in (b) of the above reply; if so, how many total contracts have been given during the last five years and how many of SC/ST are among them;

(b) what is the criteria for allotting clearing Agency in the Ports, particularly in Madras and in Tuticorin;

(c) during the last five years how many such Agencies were given in Madras and in Tuticorin Ports and if so, the details of company names etc., and

(d) how many Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have been given the above Agency and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Since the implementation of the scheme in July 1980, 16 works have been awarded by Mad-

ras Port Trust to SC/ST contractors. During the last 5 years approximately 260 contracts, excluding 16 contracts referred to above, were awarded by Madras Port Trust. Details of contracts awarded to SC/ST contractors are not available.

During the last 5 years, 674 contracts have been awarded by Tuticorin Port. Details of contracts awarded to SC/ST contractors are not available.

(b) No licences are issued by the Madras and Tuticorin Port Trust for the clearing agencies. Licences for appointment of clearing agents are issued by Customs authorities in accordance to the criteria laid down by them.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Overbridge at Jorai Kamakhyaguri

3378. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has agreed to build a Road Over Bridge at Jorai Kamakhyaguri and Alipurduar Court;

(b) if so, when the work will start; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Proposals for construction of road over/under-bridges are to be sponsored by the State Government/Local Authority together with an undertaking to bear their share of the cost if the bridge is in replacement of existing level crossing and the entire cost if it is a new bridge not in replacement of existing level cross-