

new multi-purpose Blocks have been sanctioned during 1957-58. During 1956-57, 4 such Blocks were sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Canning as Cottage Industry in the Development Blocks

1463. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to encourage canning as cottage industry in the Development Blocks; and

(b) the financial assistance and the technical know-how placed at the disposal of persons engaged in such industries?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) *Ad hoc* minor schemes are taken up in canning wherever practicable in C.D. and N.E.S. areas. In Pilot Projects in which conditions are considered suitable for starting such an industry, this Ministry has arranged for expert investigations and preparation of schemes through the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

(b) Loans are given to the persons engaged in such industries. Technical know-how is provided by the State Governments and the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, who also operate a scheme for training them in the techniques of the industry.

Inspectors of Post Offices

1464. **Shri Ignace Beck:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of competitive vacancies advertised for the posts of Inspectors of Post Offices and the Railways Mail Service in 1957;

(b) the total number of reserved seats for the Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) the total number of Scheduled Tribes, who competed from Bihar and the number selected?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 158 vacancies of Inspectors of Post Offices and 46 vacancies of Inspectors of Railway Mail Service were announced for all Circles for February, 1957 examination.

(b) 22 vacancies of Inspectors of post offices and 12 vacancies of Inspectors of Railway Mail Service were reserved for Scheduled Tribes in all Circles.

(c) From Bihar two Scheduled Tribe candidates appeared for Inspector of Post Offices examination only but none qualified.

Scheduled Castes Employees on Central Railway

1465. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates recruited or selected as Class II and III officers on the Central Railway during 1957-58 so far; and

(b) the percentage reserved by Government for them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) There is no percentage reservation in the case of selection to Class II or Class III. As regards the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes recruited to these Classes on the Central Railway, there was no recruitment made in Class II, but the position in regard to class III is as under:

	Scheduled Castes per cent.	Scheduled Tribes per cent.
Class III	8.8	.7

(b) Class II—Class II posts are generally filled by promotion of suitable Class II staff and in promotions