

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps taken to provide enough passport books in time to the offices;

(d) is there any inadequacy of staff in the passport offices for the speedy disposal of the applications for passports; and

(e) if so, whether Government will consider to recruit more staff by giving priority for those who were thrown out of employment from the Regional Passport Office at Cochin under the plea of non-availability for work?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) There has been some delay in issue of passports by the Regional Passport Office at Cochin, mainly due to unprecedented rush for passport services and inadequacy of staff.

(b) and (c) The Regional Passport Office at Cochin experienced shortage of passport booklets owing to unexpectedly large increase in demand of passports. Immediate steps were taken through Passport Office, Bombay, and Indian Security Press, Nasik, to replenish the stock. The situation has thus improved and is expected to improve further.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government has already sanctioned requisite additional staff for the purpose. It has also authorised the Regional Passport Office at Cochin to engage such staff as may be necessary through local Employment Exchange till such time as the posts are filled in on a regular basis. The staff whose services were earlier dispensed with last year due to reduction of posts then, have now been reinstated there.

छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान कलकत्ता से हाजीराज. सूरत राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग

3997. श्री छोटूभाई गामित : क्या नावहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान कलकत्ता से हाजीरा, सूरत (गुजरात) तक राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग बनाने के बारे में निर्णय ले लिया गया है ; और

(ख) इस राजमार्ग पर, कितना व्यय होगा और निर्माण कार्य कब शुरू होगा, तथा कब पूरा होगा और इस बारे में पूरा व्यय क्या है ?

नावहन और परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सीता राम केसरी): (क) और (ख). उक्त सड़क का कलकत्ता धुलिया सड़क पहले ही से राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग (रा. रा. सं. 6) का भाग है। धुलिया-हाजीरा-सूरत सड़क एक मौजूदा राज्य सड़क है। धन के अभाव के कारण, भारत सरकार इस समय किसी भी राज्य में कोई नया राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग घोषित करने की स्थिति में नहीं है और यही बात धुलिया-हाजीरा-सूरत सड़क के संबंध में भी है।

National Scholarships Scheme

3998. SHRI RAM PRASAD
AHIRWAR:

SHRI SURAJ BHAN:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) when was the National Scholarships Scheme started and what were the different amounts per scholarships awarded to various categories;

(b) what is the value of Rupee today with base at that in 1960-61 in the real value of each category of scholarships due to the reduced value of rupee which has been compensated and still remains to be compensated;

(c) what were the ceiling of income of the guardians of the students eligible for different scholarships in 1960-61 and what they are today;

(d) is there any proposal to revise them, if yes, details thereof;

(e) if not, reasons therefor; and

(f) whether Government propose to provide the scholarship holders some facilities (cheap or free of charge) like residence, books, stationery, medical aid etc.; if yes, how?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) The scheme was started in 1961-62. The

old and new rates of scholarship are given in the attached statement.

(b) Revision of rates of scholarship has no relation with the reduced value of rupee as education is highly subsidised in India.

(c) to (e) The income ceiling of the guardians is Rs. 6000/- per annum excluding all allowances and some deductions allowable under Income Tax Act. There is no change of the ceiling since 1961-62. With a view to ensuring that the benefits of the scheme should accrue to really low income groups, it has been decided not to revise the existing income ceiling.

(f) Students are already enjoying hostel, book, stationery, medical and other facilities at subsidised rates.

Statement

COURSE	Rates in 1961-60		Revised Rates from 17-1981	
	Day Scholars	Hostellers	Day Scholars	Hostellers
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Pre-University course and IA/I.Sc./1st year of 3 year BA/BSc./B. Com. etc. course.	50/-pm	60/-pm	60/-pm	100/-pm
2. BA/B.Sc./B. Com. etc. (2nd and 3rd year courses).	75/-pm	85/-pm	90/-pm	140/-pm
3. B.E./B.Tech./MBBS/LL.B./B.Ed. Diploma in professional and Engineering students etc.	100/-pm	110/-pm	120/-pm	170/-pm
4. M.A./M.Sc./M. Com./LL.M./M.Ed. etc.	100/-pm	110/-pm	120/-pm	170/-pm

Coaches Idle

3999. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Railway Coaches are idle, awaiting repairs; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to encourage starting of ancillary repair workshops to cope with the repair work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN

THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The total number of coaches awaiting repairs on Broad Gauge are 940 and Metre Gauge 250. This is 5.1 per cent and 2.3 per cent of the respective holding of coaches on Broad Gauge & Metre Gauge.

(b) The Government is already in the process of expanding its workshops at Jagadhari and New Bongaigaon for increasing coach repair capacity. New shops increasing coach repair capacity. New Workshops for repairs of stock are also being set up at Bhubaneswar, Tirupati and Bhopal.