

category of service from Clerks/Senior Clerks to that of Guard ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the Railway and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

बर्मा में असम के उग्रवादियों को प्रशिक्षण

4937. श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या असम के कुछ उग्रवादी तत्वों को बर्मा में हथियारों का प्रशिक्षण दिया जा रहा है और ये उग्रवादी तत्व हथियारों से सुसज्जित होकर भारतीय क्षेत्र में अशांति पैदा कर रहे हैं ;

(ख) क्या इस संदर्भ में राज्य के विभिन्न स्थानों पर विभिन्न प्रकार के अवैध हथियार भी बरामद किये गये हैं ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इस खतरनाक स्थिति में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ए० ए० रहीम) : (क) से (ग) इस आशय की खबरें समय-समय पर देखने में आती रहीं हैं। सरकार इन पर गौर कर रही है लेकिन निश्चित रूप से अभी कुछ सिद्ध नहीं हुआ है।

Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in South Asia

4938. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has reiterated its opposition to the proposal to set up a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia ; and

(b) if so, the purpose behind the opposition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India believes that the whole world should be free of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament is indivisible ; it cannot be piecemeal in terms of geographical extent. Also, as a matter of principle, India cannot subscribe to the legitimization of the possession of nuclear weapons by a few powers by agreeing to live under their professedly benign protection in the guise of a nuclear free weapon zone. Further, the movement and deployment of nuclear weapons in various regions of the world by the nuclear weapon States is fundamentally irreconcilable with the idea of nuclear weapon free-zones. We are, therefore, of the general view that the nuclear weapon free zone idea has become unrealistic.

As regards the specific proposal for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia, India has always been of the firm view that such regional arrangements cannot be imposed from outside or even foisted from within a region ; they should be developed and matured within the region concerned. South Asia cannot be treated in isolation as it is only a sub-region of the region of Asia and the Pacific, and it is necessary to take into account the security environment of the region as a whole. The existence of nuclear weapons in the region of Asia and the Pacific and the presence of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean complicate the security environment of the region as a whole and make the situation particularly inappropriate for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the sub-region of South Asia.

New Lines and Conversion of M.G. Lines into B.G. in Gujarat (Western Railway)

4939. SHRI MOTIBHAI R. CHAUDHURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) details of the progress made in construction of new lines and changing metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines in Gujarat on the Western Railway Sector ;

(b) whether any work has stopped due to lack of funds ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether the sanctioned works would be completed within the time-bound period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Progress of approved new line and gauge conversion (M.G. to B.G.) railway projects in Gujarat is given below :

1. Kapadvanj-Modasa (BG) new line —9% (Approx.)
2. Bhuj-Naliya (MG) New line —15% (Approx.)
3. Viramgam-Okha-Porbandar conversion from MG to BG —82% (Approx.)

(b) to (d). Works are being progressed according to the available resources and relative priorities.

Assistance Pledged by India for Palestine Refugees

4940. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the nature and extent of assistance cash, kind and services, pledged by India to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the details of scholarships for higher studies and training facilities to Palestinian students in the country ; and

(b) the details of the assistance to be given for this cause for the next year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) : (a) Since 1976, India has been pledging Rs. 1 lakh in kind as annual assistance to UNRWA until 1978 when our annual assistance was raised to Rs. 1.5 lakhs. In 1982 we raised our con-

tribution to Rs. 2 lakhs. In 1983 we also made an ad hoc contribution of Rs. 2 lakhs in cash.

Against allocation of 10 scholarships since 1980-81, Palestinian students have used 12, 14 and 17 seats for academic years 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 respectively.

(b) India has pledged Rs. 2 lakhs for 1984. India has allocated 10 scholarships for Palestinian students for 1983-84.

Recruitment by Calcutta Metro Railway Administration

4941. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Calcutta Metro Railway Administration is recruiting only outsiders for its permanent posts ;

(b) if so, why the claims of long-serving suitable casual workers are being ignored ; and

(c) whether the present recruitment policy will be changed to provide at least a percentage of permanent appointment to those working as casual labour on this project for a long period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) There are at present no permanent posts in the Metro Railway Calcutta.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is under examination.

Refusal of Admission of Appearing in Examination at Varanasi Centres

4942. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) is it a fact that candidates coming from West Bengal for appearing in the Railway Service Commission Examination