THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Estimates of national income either for the current year, i.e. 1971-72 or for 1970-71 have not yet been made.

Concessions to Government Employees belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes

3484. SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the nature of concessions allowed to the Central Government employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of appointments, confirmation and promotion:
- (b) whether Government propose to set up any machinery for the periodical review of the implementation of the concessions; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT—56/71].

(b) and (c). The orders of the Government regarding reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services. and the concessions given to them in the matter of appointments, confirmation and promotion are expected to be implemented strictly by all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. The Ministeries/ Departments are required to send periodical statements to the Department of Personnel containing information about the filling of reserved vacancies etc. Liaison Officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary have also been nominated in each Ministry/Department who are specifically responsible for ensuring due compliance by the subordinate appointing authorities of the orders and instructions pertaining to the reservation of vacancies for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other benefits admissible to them, and also for conducting annual inspection of the reservation rosters maintained in the Ministries etc. with a view to see that the reservation orders are properly implemented. A High-power Committee under the Chai:manship of the Prime Minister has also been constituted to review the performance in the matter of recruitment of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the services of the Government. In view of these measures, it is not considered necessary to set up any further machinery for the periodical review of the implementation of the concessions.

Expenditure on Election Tours Undertaken by Prime Minister

3485. SHRI BRIJ RAJ SINGH-KOTAH : SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total expenditure borne by Central Government on Prime Ministers' tour during the election days by Helicopters and other planes;
- (b) whether similar facilities were also demanded by the other parties; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHSIN): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). Some members of certain opposition parties did write to the Government that leaders of the opposition parties should be provided the same facilities and on the same terms as were provided to the Prime Minister during the election tours. They were informed that the use of Air Force planes by the Prime Minister was not a new facility and that it had been availed of by successive incumbents of the office of Prime Minister ever since the general election in 1952. They were also informed that the facility was available to the Prime Minister as the incumbent of that office and not as the leader of the ruling party. The question of extending this facility to any party therefore did not arise,