

(b) when Government are likely to introduce the Scheme; and

(c) what is likely to be the nature of the scheme?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh) (a) to (c). The Punjab Government intend to introduce a pilot scheme for crop insurance in that State. Details of the scheme are being worked out by them and the final scheme has not so far been received by the Government of India. It is not possible to say at this stage when the scheme would be introduced.

Time Scale clerks and R.M.S. Sorters

1466. { Shri Buta Singh:
Shri Gulshan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that time scale clerks and R.M.S. sorters of the P. & T. department are required to pass written and oral tests before they are confirmed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that failure to pass the above tests renders these employees liable for termination of their services reversion to lower grade if they happen to be direct recruit/departmental promotees; and

(c) if so, the total number of such employees (i) whose services have been terminated (ii) who have been reverted to lower grade and (iii) number of Scheduled Castes employees affected in both cases, in the years 1960 and 1961, in all the P. & T. Circles?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. However, in the case of direct recruits, alternative posts in lower grades are offered before their services are terminated. Time-scale clerks and sorters who could not pass the confirmation test within the permissible number of chances and have completed at least 5 years' satisfactory

service in their grade on or before the 12th October, 1961 are as a matter of concession being exempted from the confirmation test if their work and conduct is adjudged as satisfactory. The whole question is being reviewed and in the meantime instructions have been issued that officials should not be reverted or discharged from service for their failure to qualify in the confirmation test.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Welfare Inspectors

1467. { Shri Buta Singh:
Shri Gulshan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several posts of Welfare Inspectors and Upper Division Clerks have been created in different P. & T. Circles and Other Units under them since 1957 upto date; and

(b) if so, the total number of posts sanctioned in each P. & T. Circle and the number of posts reserved for the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the above categories?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The posts will not be filled up centrally. No reservation of any quota is feasible for the posts of Welfare Inspectors because only one post will be filled up in each Circle for the present on the recommendation of Departmental Promotion Committees. The question of the practicability of having the quota on an overall basis is being examined. The posts of Upper Division Clerks were filled up on the basis of—

(i) Direct recruitment.

(ii) Promotion from Lower Division on the basis of a compe-