

[Translation]

Allocation to Panchayati Raj Institutions

4395. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to extend the time limit of two years more for the implementation of Panchayati Raj Act;

(b) if so, the reasons advanced by the State Government;

(c) whether the State Government has also requested to review the certain provisions of Central Act;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(e) the allocation made and released to Maharashtra for the Panchayati Raj Institutions during each of the last three years and till date; and

(f) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The question does not arise.

(e) and (f) Minister of Rural Areas & Employment does not allocate funds to PRIs as such. However, the Ministry of Finance releases funds to various States for augmenting the finances of PRIs based on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. Releases commenced from the year 1996-97. Rs. 86.75 crore each was allocated and released to the State of Maharashtra during 1996-97 and 1997-98 for this purpose.

**Regularisation of Casual Labour
in Railways**

4396. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :
SHRI ADITYANATH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid for the regularisation of Casual Labourers in Railways;

(b) the number of casual labourers regularised during each of the last three years, Division-wise;

(c) the number out of them belonging to SC/ST/OBC;

(d) whether a number of eligible casual labourers are waiting for regularisation;

(e) if so, the details thereof, Division-wise; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Casual Labour are absorbed in regular establishment after screening in their turn based on the number of days put in by them subject to availability of vacancies.

(b) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Induction of New Generation Coaches

4397. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have decided to induct new generation coaches replacing existing passenger coaches;

(b) if so, the total number of coaches to be inducted;

(c) whether additional coaches will be able to cope up the rush of passengers;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the annual production of the new generation coaches in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Every year more than 2000 new coaches are inducted into the system to cater for condemnation and additional requirements. Indigenous efforts have ensured continuous upgradation of design and technology of the coaches being manufactured by Indian Railways. However, in addition 24 coaches are being received under the supply contract from M/s LHB, Germany together with the Transfer of Technology contract.