

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the speedy disposal of those cases; and

(e) the total amount involved/locked up in those cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) On a Writ Petition (PIL) filed before it raising, inter alia, the question of pendency of cases before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, the Delhi High Court had issued notices to the Government and the Tribunal. However, on hearing the Government and the Tribunal, the High Court has disposed of the said Writ Petition on 16.10.1998.

(c) The total number of cases pending in the Tribunal as on 1.10.1998 was 3,03,057. The period-wise break-up of these cases was as follows :

Upto 1 year	-	46,338
More than 1 years	-	45,212
More than 2 years	-	49,016
More than 3 years	-	46,544
More than 4 years	-	38,306
More than 5 years	-	77,641

The reason for the pendency is the fact that the institution of cases is more than the disposals.

(d) Fifteen additional benches of the Tribunal have been created recently to tackle the increasing workload before the Tribunal. The monetary limit for cases to be heard by Single Members of the Tribunal has been recently increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs so that more and more cases can be decided by Single Member Benches. Grouping of cases involving similar issues, identification of cases covered by authoritative pronouncements of the Supreme Court/High Courts for quick disposal, organisation of camp benches and sending Members on tours to places where the pendency is more or the regular benches are not functioning are some of the other steps taken for speedy disposal of cases.

(e) The Tribunal does not maintain any records as to the amount involved/locked-up in the cases before it.

[Translation]

#### Admission against Reserved Seats in Delhi University

174. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of students admitted to graduation

and post-graduation courses in different colleges of Delhi University for the academic year 1998-99;

(b) the number of students admitted against the seats reserved for SCs/STs;

(c) whether all such reserved seats have been filled; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken by the University of Delhi to ensure admission against all the reserved seats in future?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Ongoing Projects in Orissa

175. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the ongoing projects in Orissa being financed from the Central Road Fund;

(b) the estimated cost thereof project-wise;

(c) the funds released therefor; and

(d) the amount spent thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) There are 3 Nos. of ongoing projects in Orissa sanctioned under Central Road Fund (CRF) namely :-

Name of Project	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Bridge over river Safai at 67 Km of S.H.No. 10	140.00
2. Replacement of old damaged bridge at 74 Km of Saragarh-Niligiri-Kaptipada-Udala-Haripada-Midnapur border RD MDR 5.	38.00
3. Construction of a H.L. Bridge over river Mahanadi near Sonapur on Samabalpur-Sonapur Road (SH)	1109.38

(c) The funds under CRF are released on lump-sum basis to States and not project-wise. During the last five years a sum of Rs. 76.15 lakhs were allocated to the State of Orissa.

(d) An amount of Rs. 118.00 lakhs is reported to have been spent on the three projects upto March, 1998.

#### Extra Benefits to M.Phil and Ph.D. Holders

176. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lecturers having both M.Phil and Ph. D. degrees can be given some extra benefits in so far as promotion to senior lecturer grade is concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the lecturers having substantial number of publications and/or paper presentations at National Level Seminars would be given some benefits or incentives;

(d) if so, the time by which the same would be done; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) As per the revised pay scales notified by the Government on 27.7.98, the minimum length of service for eligibility to move into the grade of Lecturer (Senior scale) would be four years for those with Ph.D., five years for those with M.Phil., and six years for others as a Lecturer.

(c) to (e) The UGC has been asked to prepare a scheme, in consultation with the Government, for awarding and recognising such of the meritorious teachers as may not have M.Phil. or Ph.D. but may have shown adequate merit by way of making outstanding contributions through publications, attendance at Seminars, etc.

#### Nehru Yuva Kendra at Kendrapara

177. SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Nehru Yuva Kendra unit was decided to be set up during the year 1996-97 for the district of Kendrapara (Orissa); and

(b) if so, the present status of the said unit?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has not been possible to open the Kendra so far for want of sanction of the requisite posts and availability of funds.

#### NTPC and Hydro-Power Generation

178. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation is planning to enter into hydro-power generation field;

(b) if so, whether this will overlap the functions of the National Hydro Power Corporation;

(c) whether the present hydro-thermal mix is not balanced thereby causing a hike in power tariffs; and

(d) if so, the National Thermal Power Corporation propose to explore the possibilities of setting up mini-hydel plants to supplement its generation capacity and if so, the states identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been permitted by Ministry of Power to enter into the field of hydro power and non-conventional energy sources.

(b) No, Sir. Because National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) alone may not be able to exploit the huge hydro-electricity potential in the country. The new Hydro policy envisages that several agencies would be promoting hydel development both at the central and state level.

(c) The ideal hydro-thermal mix should be 40:60. At present the hydro share is only 25%. Due to the imbalance in the hydro-thermal mix, especially in Eastern and Western region, many thermal power stations are required to back down during the off peak hours resulting in loss of 4-5% in the Plant Load Factor (PLF). Hydro power stations are ideal for meeting the peak power requirement. Further, cost of power generation in hydro-electric stations declines over time since there is no fuel cost. Inadequate hydro power capacity together with thermal power being required to meet the peak demand, results in loss of energy and makes it difficult to control frequency.

(d) NTPC is identifying some medium size hydro projects under operation as well as those under construction and development for the purpose of investment and capacity addition.

#### Power Plants Set Up with Fuels

179. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Naphtha, Fuel Oil (FO),