

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The quantity of optical Fibre Cable required in Maharashtra and the present supply thereof in Kms is furnished below:

Requirement	Allotment	Supply
5627	5190	768

(b) and (c) Although procurement action was taken sufficiently in advance, the ordering got delayed due to a court case and 20% of the tendered quantity had to be kept aside to be ordered after the case is decided which is likely during Dec. '98. The orders could therefore be released only during Oct.-Nov. 98 and it is expected that most of the ordered cable shall be available for use during the current year.

Prisoners in Pak Jails

1794. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of prisoners of War (PoWs) in Pakistan jails;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to get them released during 1998; and
- (c) the fresh steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) According to available information, 54 Indian Prisoners of War (POWs) are believed to be in custody in Pakistan.

(b) and (c) The matter was taken up with Government of Pakistan during discussions between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan held in Islamabad from 15-18 October, 1998. Pakistan has been maintaining that there are no such Indian defence personnel in its custody. Government would continue to pursue the matter with the Government of Pakistan.

[*Translation*]

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

1795. SHRI H.P. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of appointment on compassionate grounds in the Communications Department in Eastern States especially in Bihar pending for the last three years;
- (b) the time by which all such cases are likely to be disposed of; and
- (c) the criterion being adopted for making such appointments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) 102 cases of appointment on compassionate grounds are pending. Out of which 35 cases in Bihar.

(b) Appointments are being made progressively and it is expected that backlog will be cleared within six months.

(c) The criterion followed is in accordance with the basic guidelines issued by DoP&T on the subject circulated vide letter No. 14014/6/86-Estt (D) dated 30th June, 97 and related instructions issued from time to time.

[*English*]

CSS Officers

1796. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether regular panels of CSS officers for the posts of Under Secretaries have not been issued after 1986 resulting in a heavy loss in promotional avenues for officers of SC/ST category;
- (b) if so, the time by which these panels are likely to be issued; and
- (c) the criteria adopted to provide reservation to SC/ST categories for panels for the years 1987 to 1996, the period prior to the Orders of Government for adoption of posts-based Roster in lieu of vacancy-based Roster with effect from 2.7.1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) No select list for regular promotions to Grade I (Under Secretaries) of the Central Secretariat Service could be prepared after 1986 owing to protracted litigation regarding inter-se seniority of directly recruited and promoted Section Officers. Even the select lists prepared for the years 1984 to 1986 were set aside by the Central Administrative Tribunal. Consequently, ad-hoc promotions only are being ordered to the Grade I of the Service. Pursuant to the common seniority list (CSL) of Section Officers issued on 3.12.1997 in compliance with the Supreme Court's order dt. 9.5.1997, the exercise for review/preparation of Grade I panels for the years 1984 to 1986 and the years 1987 onwards has been initiated. The exercise as a whole is time-consuming and it is not feasible to specify any definite time-frame for its completion.

(c) Reservation in respect of the select lists of Under Secretaries for the years 1987 onwards yet to be prepared is to be provided with reference to the post-based roster as per the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training in compliance with the Supreme Court's decision.

Nuclear Export Control Mechanism

1797. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:

SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks between India and US to explore various export control regimes to check nuclear proliferation

were held;

- (b) If so, to what extent the talks were successful;
- (c) whether any agreement on nuclear issues were reached between the two countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On November 9-10, 1998 India and the United States held discussions on export control issues as a part of the on-going bilateral dialogue process aimed at bringing about a normalisation of bilateral relations. During these discussions India conveyed its concerns regarding restrictions on access to dual-use technologies, equipment for civilian applications, including in the nuclear energy sector. The discussions led to a better appreciation of India's commitment to non-proliferation, reflected in its effective system of export controls.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Soyabean Crop

1798. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 50 percent crop of soyabean in Madhya Pradesh was destroyed during the sowing season and remaining half of the crop was destroyed due to the failure of rain during this year;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to provide any assistance to the farmers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that despite the sporadic pattern of rainfall during July and August, 1998, the Soyabean crop was saved to a greater extent. Soyabean was sown in 42.81 lakh hectares area in 1997-98 and the estimated area under soyabean in 1998-99 is about 44.81 lakh hectares. As against the estimated production of 49.19 lakh tonnes of Soyabean during 1997-98, the estimated production during 1998-99 is 51.50 lakh tonnes.

Water Management

1799. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL:

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the water resources are shrinking rapidly in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Union Government to explore water resources during 1997-98 in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) On an average the total water resources availability in the country remains the same. However, per capita availability of fresh water is shrinking due to increase in population, rapid industrialisation and urbanisation. At the time of Independence, the per capita water availability in the country was over 5000 cubic meters per year which has now fallen to about 2200 cubic metres per year.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Infrastructure Projects

1800. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to monitor the private sector infrastructure projects costing Rs.100 crore and above; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the nodal agency for the purpose alongwith the areas identified for surveillance?

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) The Department of Programme Implementation has been identified as the Nodal Agency. To start with, private/joint sector infrastructure projects in the Civil Aviation, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mines, Power, Telecommunications and Surface Transport Sectors Would be taken up for monitoring.

Conference on Disarmament

1801. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the 61-nation Conference on Disarmament, including India, has agreed to hold negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty which envisages blanket ban on production of materials used to make nuclear arms;
- (b) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out; and
- (c) the time by which the Committee is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) On August 11,1998, the Conference on Disarmament,