

(c) The proposal for budget allotment of 6 per cent of GDP for Education has not yet been implemented. However, efforts are being made to increase the Governmental spending on Education gradually from existing level of about 3.7% to 6% of the GDP, to provide education for all.

(d) the question does not arise.

Award to Indian Scientist

244. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'NASA Calls Space Station Chandrasekhar' appearing in the Indian Express dated December 23, 1998;

(b) whether the Government propose to confer any posthumous award to this great Indian Scientist; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently there is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Houses for Fishermen

245. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fisheries Department of Government of Madhya Pradesh has forwarded a scheme valuing Rs. 50.50 lakhs for construction of houses for fishermen under the National Welfare Fund Scheme for Fishermen for the approval of the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the decision/approval has been accorded to the scheme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken on the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Under the Development of Model Fishermen Villages component of the National Welfare of Fishermen scheme, a total number of 460 houses, 23 tubewells and 3 community halls for fishermen were sanctioned in various villages of Madhya Pradesh during the period 1989-90 to 1993-94 and an amount of Rs. 29.37 lakhs was released for the said purpose. However, the progress of utilisation of funds by the State Government is slow and even funds sanctioned during 1989-90 have not been fully utilised so far. Approval for the present scheme submitted by the Govern-

ment of Madhya Pradesh would be accorded after satisfactory progress is achieved by the State Government.

Vacant Posts

246. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of posts of different categories of employees are lying vacant in the various Ministries for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Ministry-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to fill up the vacant posts during the current year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) Yes. The total number of posts lying vacant in the Ministries/Departments is estimated at 3.2 lakhs as on 31.3.1997.

(b) As per statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The process of filling up of vacant posts is a continuous one and action in this regard is required to be taken by the administrative Ministries /Departments concerned with due regard to the instructions on the subject issued from time to time. This is also contingent upon the availability of eligible persons to be appointed against general vacancies as of those reserved for SC/ST/OBC etc. and completion of recruitment action. In some cases it may also involve consultation with external agencies like Staff Selection Commission, Union Public Service Commission etc.

Statement

Name of Ministry/Deptts.	Estimated number of vacant post as on 31.3.97
1	2
1. Agriculture and Cooperation and Animal Husbandary and Dairying.	1324
2. Agri. Res. & Education	2
3. Atomic Energy	4352
4. Bio-technology	38
5. Cabinet Sectt.	13
6. Chemicals & Petrochemicals	47
7. Civil Aviation	279
8. Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.	88