

- (a) the reasons for mass suicide by cotton farmers in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether alleged biological warfare launched by USA is particularly responsible for that; and
- (c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The suicide by farmers in Andhra Pradesh was due to damage to crops, mainly cotton, due to pest attack and indebtedness of the farmers. The pest attack was further aggravated by excessive and indiscriminate use of sub-quality chemicals and faculty spray equipments.

- (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Purchases without Inviting Tender

3215. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, other such institutes have made purchases of various items worth 1.30 crore of rupees without inviting open tender;
- (b) if so, the reasons for this illegal purchase without inviting tenders; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers found guilty of violating purchase rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. This issue has been raised by C & AG in Para 8.1 (sub-para 8.1.4 (b)) of C & AG Report No. 5 of 1998.

(b) and (c) The detailed comments from the concerned institutes are being collected. After thorough examination of the reply and verification of the records, appropriate action will be taken.

[English]

Posts Reserved for SC/ST

3216. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the 43 posts of Section Officer reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for the year 1996 and 28 posts for 1997 in different Ministries are laying vacant;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not filling up the posts through Section Officer/Steno Grade B Limited Departmental Competitive Exams?

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) to (c) The cadre controlling authorities of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) reported 43/12 posts of Section Officers (SOs reserved for SCs/STs to be filled from the Limited Departmental Competitive Examinations (LDCE), 1996/1997 respectively. No candidate was recommended by the UPSC against these vacancies on the basis of the said examinations as per the qualifying standards fixed.

Funds under MPLADS

3217. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount sanctioned, allocated and released to each Member of Parliament of Orissa under the MPLADS during each year till date since its constitution;
- (b) whether some of the amount released has remained unutilised;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (d) the details of the works recommended by MPs of Orissa considered and completed during the last three years in Orissa; and
- (e) the time by which the incomplete works are likely to be completed?

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) to (c) The total amounts released and sanctioned to each Member of Parliament of Orissa under MPLADS till date since its constitution are given in enclose Statement-I and II. In case of Lok Sabha, funds are released constituency-wise. The balance remains unutilised due to application of Model Code of conduct during Elections of the Parliament, State Legislatures and Panchayati Raj Institutions, change in recommendation by MPs, non-availability of land, time taken by implementing agencies in submitting plans and estimates etc.

(d) and (e) Details of works recommended by MPs and taken up under MPLADS are not maintained by this Department. Such details are available with the concerned District Collectors.