

Running scale structure from T-1 to T-9 grade of personnel instead of existing three categories i.e. Categories I to III. Direct entry in the service has been recommended at T-1, T-3 & T-6 grades. A person may go from T-1, T-3 & T-6 to T-9 level on the basis of entry level qualifications acquired by a person. A new assessment system for five yearly promotion based on threshold marks for merit promotion adopting a quantitative assessment have also been recommended. For Cat. III, 7 yearly assessment system as against 5 yearly has been proposed. The system of grant of advance increment(s) is proposed to be abolished.

(d) Recommendations of the Chadha Committee were discussed in the 60th meeting of the Senior Officers Committee (SOC) held on 17.2.97. In view of the scheme of Assured Career Progression Scheme proposed in the 5th Pay Commission the Govt. has imposed a temporary ban on amendment of recruitment rules. The Chadha Committee has proposed major restructuring which will require approval of Cabinet and Ministry of Finance for creation of large number of additional posts. Therefore, the SOC has decided to request Chadha Committee to review the recommendations in the light of recommendations of the 5th Pay Commission. On receipt of the revised recommendations further action will be taken for implementation of the report.

[Translation]

#### Handicapped Persons

1539. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of handicapped persons is constantly increasing in the country;

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

(c) whether a little amount has been allocated in the budget in comparison to the large number of handicapped persons;

(d) if so, whether the Government would consider to make budget provision in accordance with the number of handicapped persons;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of these persons ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (f) Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1981 covering only three disabilities estimated at about 1.8% of the total population of the country comprising disabled persons. 1991 Sample Survey conducted by the same Organisation covering four kinds of disabilities estimated 1.9% population as disabled. Neither of the surveys included mentally handicapped persons.

The Sample Survey was conducted only in 15 States.

The budget provision for the handicapped welfare sector in the Ministry of Welfare is Rs. 45.90 crores for the year 1996-97. The same is proposed to be increased to Rs. 107.04 crores in 1997-98. There is no special component Plan for the disabled.

Apart from bringing in a piece of comprehensive Legislation, namely, The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the Government through the National Institutes and Apex level institutes trains necessary manpower required for rehabilitation of the disabled in addition to providing services to the disabled persons. The Rehabilitation Council of India is working for standardisation of the training curriculum and of professionals in the field.

The non-Governmental Organisations are being aided by the Government for undertaking activities aimed at rehabilitation of the disabled including Establishment and Development of Special Schools, vocational training centres, placement services, etc.

The Ministry of Labour (Directorate General of Employment and Training) assists 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for the physically handicapped in different parts of the country. Other Ministries such as Health, Rural Development and Department of Education also have programmes which have a bearing on rehabilitation of the disabled.

Under the Plan Scheme—Employment of the Handicapped—Ministry of Welfare has been providing financial assistance upto 80% of the actual expenditure incurred by a State Government in setting up Special Employment Exchanges for the Handicapped. This assistance becomes 100% in the case of setting up of Special Cells in the normal Employment Exchanges. At present 47 Special Employment Exchanges and 41 Special Cells are functioning in different parts of the country.

Apart from providing preferential treatment to the handicapped for allotment of Petrol Pumps, Gas Agencies, PCOs and Allotment of kiosks and Vending Stalls, a National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been set up recently to promote self-employment of persons with disability.

[English]

#### Refugees from Burma

1540. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any instructions to the States in regard to providing facilities and priority in the matter of issue of licences and permits to the repatriate Indians from Burma;

(b) if so, whether all the States are implementing these instructions;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to make them to accede to the instructions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Instructions were issued to the State Governments in 1965 that apart from the grant of business loans to repatriates from Burma, priority may also be given to them in the matter of grant of licences, permits, etc. where these are required for any occupation or trade.

(b) No instance of non-implementation of these instructions has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### High Breed Cows and Buffaloes

1541. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to absence of high breed bulls and buffaloes in Uttar Pradesh especially in the hilly areas, the breeds of high yield milk cows and buffaloes are not available;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to launch a special programme for the high breed cows and buffaloes in the Uttranchal areas of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The State Government has 12 bull mother farms for production of cattle and buffalo bulls and crossbred bulls, including one bull mother farm at Dehradun which produces Sindhi and Jersey Red Sindhi crossbred bulls for breeding and producing high yielding animals.

(b) and (c) The State Government has taken up distribution of milch cows and buffaloes under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the Mini Dairy and the Development of Women and Child in Rural Areas programmes. In addition to the efforts of the State Government for cattle and buffalo development, Government of India has provided Central grant for improvement of cattle and buffaloes during the current Plan period under the National Bull Production Programme and Extension of Frozen Semen Technology Scheme.

[English]

#### Tissue Culture

1542. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the propagation of tissue culture in the country;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the arrangements made to teach the techniques of tissue culture to the common farmer in the country; and

(d) the names of the food, fruits and vegetable crops most likely to be benefited by the adoption of tissue culture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 70 commercial micro-propagation units have been registered for the production of tissue culture plants for both export and domestic markets. Out of these 30 units are already in production, producing about 40 million plants in fruits, plantation crops, ornamental crops, forestry plants, etc. annually, against an installed annual capacity of 110 million plants.

(c) Tissue culture being a specialised hi-tech area, entrepreneurship development in this area is being done by Department of Biotechnology particularly through their proposed programme of establishment of Micropropagation Technology Parks.

(d) Tissue culture technology had already been commercialised in crops like Potato, Sugarcane, Banana, Strawberry, Citrus, Papaya, Sweet Potato, Cardamom, Ginger, Turmeric, etc.

[Translation]

#### Freedom Fighter Pension

1543. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial assistance and facilities are being provided to the family members of freedom fighters pension holders after their death;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria/procedure laid down for determining the eligibility of their dependents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, widows, unmarried/unemployed daughters, mothers and fathers of the deceased freedom fighter pensioners are treated as eligible family members/dependents for the purpose of family pension and other facilities provided by the Central Government. In genuine and deserving cases, dependents of freedom fighters who are not eligible for grant of pension are also considered for grant of financial assistance from Home Minister's Discretionary Grant.