

(d) whether the department is taking any action to promote the employees so affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Promotions in the National Book Trust are made on the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee in accordance with the Recruitment Rules and Procedure prescribed for the purpose.

[*English*]

**Defence purchases from Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation**

684. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a representation from Kerala Government for placing orders with the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation Limited to meet the requirement of Defence supply; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) On a representation having been received, the State Government was requested to advise the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation to contact MG ASC, Northern Command and to quote rates of cashew kernels for his consideration because this is not a centrally purchased item. MG ASC was instructed accordingly but in spite of sending tender sets on 28.1.1997 and 22.4.1997, no response from the Corporation has been received.

[*Translation*]

**Collision of MIG Fighters**

685. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of MIG fighters remain in India and the price of each MIG fighters;

(b) the total number of fighter planes of Indian Air Force met with accidents, got destroyed and the total financial loss suffered;

(c) the reasons for these accidents and whether our pilots are less trained than those of other countries pilots; and

(d) the average rate of air accidents in India in comparison to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) There are 9 variants of MIG fighters at present in the service of IAF. It is however, not considered desirable to disclose the number of the aircraft, from the security point of view. The price of various MIG variants varies from Rs. 8.34 crores to Rs. 89.33 crores at 1997-98 price level.

(b) Since April 1993, 58 fighter aircraft met with accidents and got destroyed. Total loss on account of loss of fighter aircraft during this period as per the provisional loss statement is Rs. 612 crores.

(c) The cause factors for these accidents are technical defects, human error and bird strike. The training of IAF pilots is not, in any way, inferior to that of pilots from other countries.

(d) comparison of the average rate of accidents with that of other countries is not possible as the list of the number of accidents of the other countries and number of hours flown by their aircraft are not available.

**Bungling**

686. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some teachers belonging to the minority community and management staff have been eating up the funds provided by the UGC for UPSC and BPSP coaching classes in Bihar and other States; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

**Reservation to SCs/STs**

687. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not providing reservation to SCs/STs in teaching/faculty positions;

(b) the lowest grade of teaching post in which reservation is applicable; and

(c) the reasons for not implementing reservation policy for SCs/STs since 1974-75 in IITs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The ordinances of most of the Central Universities provide for reservation for SC/ST candidates in the matter of appointment at the level of lecturers. As regards the IITs, the posts are categorised as Academic, Technical, Administrative and others. In the Academic categories in the IITs, reservation for SC/ST candidates is provided in the posts of Scientific Officer (Grade-II), Research Engineer (Grade-II), System Programmer (Grade-II) and Assistant Workshop Superintendent. As regards teaching posts in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, reservation for SC/ST candidates is available.

(c) The IITs have reservation for SC/ST candidates at the lowest levels of academic categories of posts.

#### **Audit Paras**

688. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'audit paras' received from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India pertaining to the office of the Chief Administrative Officer and Joint Secretary (Ministry of Defence) in the last three years including 1997 so far;

(b) the details of the 'audit paras'; and

(c) the action taken on each of the 'audit paras'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Nil

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Redressal of Complaints of War Victims**

689. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item published in 'Dainik Jagran' on May 12, 1997 wherein it is stated that the Indian laws pertaining to the redressal of complaints of war victims are not adequate and there is need to amend them as per International Human Rights Law;

(b) if so, the details of shortcomings in these laws;

(c) the details of suggestion given for making improvement in them; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Present arrangements for redressal of grievances are considered satisfactory. There is no proposal at present to make any changes.

#### **Karimganj Steamer Station**

690. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Karimganj Steamer Station in Karimganj District, Assam has been augmented by his Ministry spending lakhs of Rupees but it remains idle because of non-functioning of water route by River Kushiara through Bangladesh; and

(b) whether the Government propose to have an agreement with Bangladesh so that small ships with cargos could ply by River Kushiara through Bangladesh to the great benefit of the people of North-East Region?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The river route between Calcutta & Karimganj through Bangladesh remains operative during May to October every year and is closed for rest of the year due to non-availability of adequate draft.

(b) Under the existing Protocol on Inland Water Transit & Trade with Bangladesh, there is a provision for movement of CIWTC vessels from Calcutta to Karimganj via Bangladesh through Kushiara river.

#### **Allocation of Amount for Promotion of Tourism**

691. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :  
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :  
SHRI R.B. RAI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated by the Union Government for the development of Tourism in the country during Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the quantum of amount spent by the Government of Kerala out of the sanctioned amount during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) The Department of Tourism provides Central Financial