

(b) the steps taken by the Government to fill the vacancies particularly in Class I services of the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The various posts in the Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions are generally classified as Officers, Clerks and Sub-staff as against Class I, II, III and IV in the Central Government Offices. Desired information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The following steps have been advised to all Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions to fill the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes :—

- (1) A lower cut off point is being prescribed for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates for their selection vis-a-vis general candidates.
- (2) Pre-recruitment training programmes are being conducted by Banks to prepare the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates for the recruitment tests.
- (3) A Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe member is being associated with the interview boards to safeguard the interests of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates.
- (4) Educational Qualifications have been relaxed in favour of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe to facilitate their intake in the services of the public sector banks in an increasing degree in the clerical cadre.
- (5) Interviews of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates are being conducted in separate sittings/dates to avoid their being compared with general candidates during interview process.

(6) Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates are not required to pay examination fees to facilitate large number of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates applying for various posts in the banking industry.

(7) Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates called for interviews are being reimbursed travelling expenses, as per the rules.

(8) A comprehensive proforma has been prescribed by the Government to enable the Banks and the Banking Service Recruitment Boards to ensure that full permissible backlog for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is being included in the indent.

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Upgradation of Roads in Maharashtra as National Highways

2453. SHRI MUKUL BAL-KRISHNA WASNIK
SHRI UDAYSINGH-RAO GAIKWAD } : Will

the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has recommended for the upgradation of certain roads in the State as National Highways;

(b) if so, the details of the roads recommended for upgradation as National Highways; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Decision about declaration of new National Highways in various States, including Maharashtra, can be taken only after finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Statement

Sl. No	Name of the Road	Length Kms.
1	Solapur-Osmanabad-Beed-Aurangabad-Dhule-Vadodara	642
2	Bombay-Ahmednagar-Nanded-Jagdalpur	660
3	Ratnagiri-Solapur-Nagpur	807
4	Westal Coastal Highway	704
5	Surat-Dhule	127
6	Aurangabad-Nanded-Hyderabad	351
7	Indore-Amravati-Yeotmal-Chandrapur-Durg	597
8	Aurangabad-Ajanta-Edlabad-Burhanpur	201
9	Betul-Nagpur-Chandrapur-Pattagundam	408
10	Amravati-Pandhurna	96
11	Mangalwedha-Jat-Belgaum	86
TOTAL		4679

13 SCS/ST/Obcs
Mitigations of Grievances of SC/ST Employees in Public Sector Banks

2454. **SHRI MUKUL BALAKRISHNA WASNIK** : Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether instructions have been issued by the Government to the nationalised banks to hold quarterly meetings with SC and ST employees associations in their respective banks to discuss and solve the grievances of these employees ;

(b) if so, whether any monitoring of the meeting is being done by the Government; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the implementation of reservation policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services of public sector banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Chief Executives of Nationalised banks hold meetings with the representatives of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe associations. The periodical reports are placed before

their respective Boards, which includes informations about such meeting. The review Reports are also received by the Government once in a year. To ensure implementation of reservation policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the service of public sector banks, the public sector banks have been inter-alia advised :—

- (i) to set up Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes cells in the Head Office/Zonal and Regional Offices;
- (ii) to appoint senior level officers as Liaison Officers in the Head Office and also at Zonal and Regional Offices;
- (iii) to place before the Board of Directors, at least once a year, a report on the progress made on implementation of reservation policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the banks for review by the Board;
- (iv) to submit a copy of the Review Report for the previous year, in the prescribed proforma, to the Government for monitoring the implementation of reservation policy in the banks;
- (v) to hold discussions once a quarter at the level of the chief executives on the matters relating to reservations with the representatives of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employees' associations functioning in the bank;
- (vi) to impart training on reservation policies to all officers and staff deployed to implement the reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation] 174

Outstanding Debt Against Iraq

2455. **SHRI VISHWANATH SHARMA** : Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of debt with interest-outstanding against Iraq;

(b) the time by which this amount is likely to be recovered; and