

businessmen, whose credentials are certified by the respective apex Trade Bodies of each member country, should be taken as expeditiously as possible and, as a matter of norm, within 72 hours. Each member country of SAARC is to take steps to implement the recommendations. Government are, however, not aware of any steps taken by Pakistan in this regard.

Vacancies in B.H.U.

291. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of interviews conducted for the posts of lecturers in Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (U.P.) during the last three years;

(b) the number of reserved and unreserved posts out of them, separately;

(c) whether the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes were declared unreserved later on; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not filling up the reserved posts through the said interview ?

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

(a) According to the information furnished by the Banaras Hindu University, no interview for the posts of lecturer was held during the years 1994 and 1995. During the year 1996, 45 posts of lecturer were filled up.

(b) Out of the 45 posts, 8 posts were reserved posts while the remaining 37 posts were filled up under general category.

(c) No Sir. In case of non-availability of eligible SC/ST candidates, the posts reserved for them are re-advertised.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indo-Pak Relations

292. KUMARI UMABHARATI :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :
KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH :
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the recent change in the Government in Pakistan fresh diplomatic initiatives have been taken by the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan on Kashmir issue and other bilateral issues; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Prime Minister has in his letter of felicitations to the new Prime Minister of Pakistan, proposed an early resumption of a wide ranging comprehensive bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan on all issues of mutual concern. Prime Minister has conveyed that there are a number of opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation and that we approach these opportunities in a positive and constructive spirit.

[English]

Rastogi Pay Commission Report

293. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several organisations of university teachers have urged the Government to submit Rastogi Pay Commission report on pay revision and related matters;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the present status of the report and the time by which the same is likely to be finalised ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Rastogi Pay Committee is likely to submit its report to University Grants Commission (UGC) by 31st March, 1997.

Bridges on N.H. in U.P.

294. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges constructed on National Highways in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether some proposals for bridge construction are still pending with the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken or likely to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Only one bridge across river Yamuna at Agra on NH-2 was completed. An expenditure of Rs. 940.11 lakhs was incurred thereon.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The following two proposals are under process :

S.No.	Name of Bridge	Estimated Cost
1.	Anup Shahar Branch Canal Km. 77 of NH-24	Rs. 1.15 Crore
2.	Pili Nadi Bridge Km. 191 of NH-56	Rs. 2.10 Crores