

in which the progress is reviewed and allocation is made on the basis of achievement during the previous year. The District Special Employment Programme and 125 Block Development Programme, etc. are also reviewed from time to time. Appropriate corrective measures are taken wherever necessary.

Statement

List of Khadi and Village Industries Boards

S.No.	States
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Assam
4.	Bihar
5.	Goa
6.	Gujarat
7.	Haryana
8.	Himachal Pradesh
9.	Jammu and Kashmir
10.	Karnataka
11.	Kerala
12.	Madhya Pradesh
13.	Maharashtra
14.	Manipur
15.	Meghalaya
16.	Mizoram
17.	Nagaland
18.	Orissa
19.	Punjab
20.	Rajasthan
21.	Sikkim
22.	Tamil Nadu
23.	Tripura
24.	Uttar Pradesh
25.	West Bengal
26.	Delhi
Union Territories	
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
28.	Chandigarh
29.	Lakshdweep
30.	Pondicherry

Cement Corporation of India

1105. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the criteria for filling up of the

vacancies of class III and IV employees of Cement Corporation of India;

(b) whether proper roster has been maintained for recruitment of SC/ST candidates;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Vacancies of Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts (Class III and IV) in various units of CCI are notified to the local employment exchanges and in case suitable candidates are not available, these are advertised in local/regional newspapers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Heroin

1106. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of Heroin smuggled from Pakistan has been seized;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last one year;

(c) the estimated value of such heroin in the international market;

(d) whether some persons have been apprehended in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken against the persons apprehended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have seized 70 Kg. of Heroin suspected to be of Pakistan origin on 1.2.1997. Four persons have been arrested in this regard.

During 1996-97 (upto 31.12.96) 576 Kg. of Heroin suspected to be smuggled from Pakistan has been seized in the country. Trade in Heroin is illegal. Hence, its international value cannot be estimated. Persons arrested for smuggling of Heroin are prosecuted under NDPS Act, 1985 and in grave cases detained under PITNDPS Act, 1988.

[English]

5th Pay Commission

1107. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission to abolish 3.5 lakh jobs which have got

been filled up so far is likely to hit the chances of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates because most of the vacancies that lie unfilled are those reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The information on total number of posts/vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in various Ministries/Departments is not centrally maintained. However, according to the information available, the 'backlog' of vacancies in respect of SCs was 5171 and that in respect of STs was 6662. Of this, recruitment had been made in 1254 SC vacancies and 853 ST vacancies.

(b) The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries to process the recommendations of the Pay Commission. Appropriate decisions would be arrived at, keeping in view, inter-alia, the policy on reservation of posts for SCs and STs.

Electoral Rolls

1108. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVEENCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review its policy of revising electoral rolls every alternate year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that it is reviewing its existing policy introduced in 1993 of intensive revision of electoral rolls every alternate year, as the experience gained by it has shown that increasing the frequency and reducing the interval for intensive revision do not achieve the purpose of having more accurate and up-to-date rolls.

Smuggling of Narcotics

1109. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons arrested and convicted for smuggling of Narcotics in the North-Eastern States during each of the last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As per information available, details of number of persons arrested and convicted for smuggling of narcotics in

North-Eastern States during the last three years are given below :-

Year	No. of Persons	
	Arrested	Convicted
1994	1420	3
1995	611	3
1996 (Prov.)	427	12

(b) Action against the offenders is initiated in accordance with the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985.

[Translation]

Agro based Industries

1110. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan for expansion of the agro-based industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Agro-based industries are being promoted by the KVIC which has taken various steps to develop them. The KVIC provides financial assistance by way of grant and loans to its registered Institutions, Cooperative Societies, State KVIBs and individual entrepreneurs on the basis of viable Projects submitted by them. KVIC also provides technical assistance, makes arrangements for supply of improved tools and implements and assists in training and marketing of the products produced by the rural artisans. The major Agro-based activities promoted by the KVIC are bee-keeping, ghani oil, honey, cane gur and khandsari, palm gur, processing of cereals and pulses, fruits and vegetables, fibres, forest plants and fruits for medicinal purposes, etc. KVIC has also launched a National Programme on bee-keeping to boost the production of honey and to provide gainful employment to rural artisans. The development of agro-based industries under the purview of KVIC is a continuous process.

Increase in Prices of Vehicles

1111. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether automobile manufacturing companies are consistently increasing the prices of their vehicles inspite of the relaxation in excise duty by the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?