

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) At present, there are seven vacancies for Scheduled Tribe candidates in the following categories:

Category	No. of posts
Group 'B'	2
Group 'C'	5

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Action has already been initiated for filling up all these seven vacancies.

[English]

Help From French Scientists

2389. SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the French Scientists have expressed desire to help the Indian Scientists in various themes of research on AIDS;
- (b) if so, whether a delegation of French Scientists have visited India recently and held discussion with Indian authorities;
- (c) if so, the details of the discussions held; and
- (d) the extent to which the Government propose to take French assistance in controlling AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The French delegation visited India and discussed this topic on 11.7.97.

(c) During discussion with French delegation, areas of research on prevention of perinatal transmission, Molecular diversity, genetic factors, biological and immunological monitoring and mucosal immunity in HIV infection have been identified.

(d) The modalities of co-operation will be discussed in a workshop of scientists of both the countries proposed to be held in January, 1998.

[Translation]

Urban Unemployed Youth

2390. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of increase in the number of unemployed urban youth in Maharashtra during the last three years and the figures thereof;
- (b) the steps being taken to check unemployment in Maharashtra; and
- (c) the provision made for the year 1997-98 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT. (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed on the live register of employment exchanges in Maharashtra at the end of 1991 and 1996 was 31.6 lakhs and 38.2 lakhs respectively. The increase is to the tune of 6.6 lakhs.

(b) This Ministry is implementing two Centrally sponsored urban employment Programmes namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) & Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP). NRY was launched in Oct., 1989 in the country including Maharashtra with the objective of providing self employment and wage employment. PMI UPEP having self employment as one of the components was launched in November, '95 in the country including Maharashtra.

(c) NRY: Provision for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 869.23 lakhs for Maharashtra.

PMI UPEP: Provision for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 721.08 lakhs for Maharashtra.

[English]

CGHS Dispensaries/Hospitals for Retired Government Servants

2391. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have opened hospitals or dispensaries under CGHS scheme for the benefit of retired Government servants;
- (b) if so, the places where such facilities have been provided;
- (c) whether the Government have fixed any criteria