

(c) Action against errant officials is taken when a case has been proved. No complaint against any official of a Passport Office relating to the specific services cited at (a) above has been substantiated in the last two years.

National Projects Construction Corporation

1209. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) have not been paid their salaries for the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether measures are being taken by the Government to pay their salaries expeditiously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. NPCC has not been able to pay salaries/wages to about 1100 employees posted in non-performing units.

(b) NPCC Ltd. is a sick public sector undertaking and has been incurring heavy losses since 1989 onwards due to high employment cost, surplus manpower, interest burden on loans, low recovery of outstanding dues from project authorities and insufficient generation of funds by the performing units.

(c) and (d) A revival plan on future course of action has been finalised. This Ministry has also been providing loan assistance to NPCC Ltd. for meeting the statutory liabilities for payment of salaries/wages.

[English]

Industries Based on Fruits

1210. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up industries based on mango, lychee, grapes and other fruits in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes being implemented or proposed to be implemented in this regard and cooperation of department of horticulture, National Horticulture Board and National Cooperative Development Corporation in this direction ; and

(d) the funds provided by these departments to each State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up Food Processing units in any State on its own. However, financial assistance in the form of loans and grant in aid is provided under its plan scheme to Non-Governmental Organisations, co-operatives, public sector undertakings and industry for setting up/expansion/modernisation of Food Processing Industries.

(c) The Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries are:

(i) Scheme for development of instructional facilities.

(ii) Scheme for setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries.

The National Horticulture Board operates the schemes:

(i) integrated project on management of post-harvest infrastructure of horticultural crops; and

(ii) development of marketing of horticultural produce.

Similarly, the National Cooperative Development is implementing a scheme under which financial assistance is provided to fruit and vegetable cooperatives for setting up of fruit and vegetable processing units.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recruitment/Promotion Rules

1211. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued orders changing the rules relating to recruitment and promotion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates;

(b) if so, the date on which these orders were issued and the details of the changes made;

(c) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was consulted before making these changes;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Commission has objected/protested against these changes;

(f) if so, the details of the objections raised; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Office Memoranda dated January 30, July 2, July 22, August 13, and August 29, 1997 respectively relate to review of seniority of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who on account of reservation policy are granted promotion in priority to their senior general candidates; Introduction of post-based roster; withdrawal of relaxations of qualifying marks and standards of evaluation for SCs and STs in matters of reservation in promotion; continuation of reservation in promotion for SCs and STs beyond 15.11.1997 and ceiling of 50% on total reservation for all categories.

(c) National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was consulted before issue of Office Memoranda dated July 2 and August 13, 1997 and was not consulted in the case of other Office Memoranda dated January 30, July 22 and August 29, 1997.

(d) None of the Office Memoranda has been issued at the initiative of the Government.

(e) to (g) Details of objections raised by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the reaction of this Government are contained in the Special Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be laid on the Table of the House by the Ministry of Welfare.

Illegal Trafficking of Women

1212. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladesh Government has sought assistance from India to stop illegal trafficking of women and children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether both the countries have discussed the issue and any final strategy formulated to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The problem of illegal trafficking of women and children has been discussed between the Government of India and Bangladesh. Both countries have agreed to cooperate to curb the trafficking in women and children and have underlined the need to take appropriate measures by involving the civil administration and the local police. The matter was also discussed with Bangladesh and other SAARC member countries at the IX SAARC summit at Male when it was decided to examine the feasibility of establishing a Regional Convention on Combating the Crime of Trafficking in women and children for prostitution.

Earthquake Victims in Afghanistan

1213. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had offered substantial relief for Afghan earthquake victims of February this year;

(b) the extent of devastations caused in terms of loss of life and property caused by the earthquakes; and

(c) the details of relief provided by Government for the quake-victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India sent 17 tonnes of relief supplies. These included medicines, woollen blankets, rice and tea.

(b) According to a UN report, 4868 persons died in the earthquake and 720 sustained injuries; in all 31,610 persons were affected. While there was extensive loss of property no estimates are available.

CBI and CVC

1214. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp/restructure the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Central Vigilance Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any expert body has been constituted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new set up of CBI and CVC is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The Supreme Court in its judgement in the case of Vineet Narain & Ors (reported in) (1998) 1 SSC 226 has given wide-ranging directions which relate to the structure and functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation as well as the Central Vigilance Commission. The Government has decided to implement the judgement.

(b) The directions concerning the CBI/CVC contained in the judgement delivered on 18.12.1997 in the case of Vineet Narain & Ors are given in the attached Statement.

(c) to (e) The Independent Review Committee was constituted by the Government in September, 1997 *inter alia* to examine the functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate and to suggest the changes, if any, needed to ensure, among other things, that offences alleged to have been committed by any person, particularly those in position of high authority, are registered, investigated and prosecuted fairly and