

(b) the number of improved breed of animals, category-wise in previous three years;

(c) the details of work undertaken relating to improvement in the breed of animals; and

(d) the financial assistance extended by the Union Government for improvement of the breed of animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The projected population of cattle and buffalos in Bihar for the last three years is given below:

(Nos. in lakh)				
Year	Cows	Bulls	She buffalos	He buffalos
1995-96	109.4	120.5	41.0	15.6
1996-97	110.7	122.0	41.8	15.9
1997-98	112.1	123.5	42.6	16.2

(b) The estimated population of cross-breed animals for the last three years is as under:

(Nos. in '000)			
Year	Cross-breed Cattle	Cross-breed Sheep	Cross-breed Pigs
1995-96	204	46	28
1996-97	209	46	29
1997-98	213	47	29

(c) and (d) Under the Central Sector Plan Scheme, Technology Mission on Dairy Development, an investment of Rs.138.84 lakhs (provisional) has been made till 31.3.98 for strengthening the frozen semen stations of Patna and Ranchi. Further an amount of Rs.156.50 lakhs (provisional) has been released under this scheme for reviving the non-functional artificial insemination centres in Bihar.

SCs/STs Reservation

1236. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Office Memoranda dated January 30, 1997, July 22, 1997 and August 13, 1997 issued by the Department of Personnel and Training is likely to affect adversely the interest of SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the issuance of these memoranda;

(c) whether the Government propose to review such memoranda; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (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 candidate. Introduction of post-based roster, withdrawal of relaxations of qualifying marks and standards of evaluation for SCs and STs in matter 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) and (d) All the above Office Memoranda except the Office Memorandum dated August 13, 1997 have been issued to implement the law laid down by the Supreme Court in various judgements and, hence, there is no scope for review. Office Memorandum dated August 13, 1997 provides for continuation of reservation in promotion for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes beyond 15.11.1997. But for this Office Memorandum reservation in promotion would have ceased after 15.11.1997 in view of Supreme Court judgement in the case of Indira Sawhney. Review of this Office Memorandum is not called for.

Missile Boat

1237. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item captioned "Pak building missile boat with Chinese assistance" in the *Hindustan Times*, dated May 2, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the construction of missile boat by Pak has created tension in the region;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to have discussion with Chinese/Pakistani counterparts on this issue, and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government have seen reports regarding the construction of a missile boat by Pakistan with China's assistance. Government have made it clear that such developments pose a threat to India's security and are not conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

(c) and (d) Government have consistently indicated India's willingness to engage in a constructive dialogue with