

(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:

Year	(Nos. in lakh)			
	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:

Year	(Nos. in' 000)		
	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 Developemnt, an investment of Rs.138.84 lakhs (provisional) has been made till 31.3.98 for strengthening the forzen 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 Capioned "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

Pakistan on all issues, including on "Peace and security" issues, based on mutual respect and regard for each others concerns. Government have also conveyed to the Chinese side our concern arising from the proliferated environment in our region and the importance of paying adequate attention to each other's concerns on vital issues affecting each other's security and territorial integrity.

[Translation]

Indian Origin Citizens

1238. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the families of Indian Origin residing in Afghanistan and other foreign countries have been assaulted by soldiers or civilians during last three years; and

(b) if so, the country-wise, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) and (b) No credible reports about assault on families of Indian origin residing in Afghanistan, by soliders or civillans, have been received during the last three years. Sporadic incidents of violence against families of Indian origin have been reported in the following countries: Canada (one); Czech Republic (two); Iran (two); and Turkmenistan (one). Some incidents of harassment of persons of Indian origin have also been reported in Indonesia, Russia and Zambia.

[English]

Regional Passport Office, Bangalore

1239. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passport issued during January 1997 to the end of February 1998 by the Bangalore Passport Office;

(b) the number of passports renewed during the above period;

(c) the minimum time taken to issue new passports and to renew the existing passports; and

(d) whether Single Window Agency is functioning at the above passport office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) the number of passports issued by the Passport Office at Bangalore is 1,09,478 during the fourteen months period from January 1997 to the end of February, 1998.

(b) the number of passports renewed by the same office during the above period is 23,669.

(c) Every effort is made to ensure that a fresh passport is issued within a period of five weeks from the date of application and renewal is undertaken within a period of one week, provided all documents are in order.

(d) Passport application together with supporting documents is required to be submitted at any single counter only. Fee is paid at a separate counter.

Export of Nuclear Material

1240. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India have entered into export of nuclear material;

(b) if so, the total export of nuclear material made during the last two years, country-wise;

(c) whether western producers of nuclear material have tried to keep India away from this field by reducing their prices ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost export nuclear material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) and (b) Apart from meeting the domestic requirement of various materials and components needed for the indigenous nuclear programme, efforts are made, when such opportunities arise, to offer expertise as well as some nuclear related material available in the country to other countries for peaceful uses. Some time back, Government of India entered into a contract with a South Korean power company for export of 100 metric tonnes of nuclear grade heavy water (valued at U.S.dollar 22.75 million) which is being shipped at present. Heavy water standards of various concentrations and valued at US dollar 35,800 have also been exported to South Korea during the last two years. Some quantity of nuclear grade zircaloy material worth about US dollar 5 84 lakh was also exported to South Korea during the last two years.

Thorium oxide ceramic buttons (500 pieces) valued at US dollar 15,000 were exported through an Indian representative company to General Electric, USA in July 1997.

(c) India has to naturally compete with some other countries for export of nuclear material like heavy water etc. However, there is no conclusive evidence that the competing countries are trying to keep India away from becoming an exporter of nuclear materials. It is possible that as a matter of business strategy in the existing market conditions, the exporting entities in some of these countries quote low enough prices to secure orders. However, in the absence of evidence to this effect, such competitive bidding need