

(b) if so, whether the request to bring employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan under the jurisdiction of CAT has been acceded;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(d) The question of bringing the employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and some other organisations under the jurisdiction of CAT is dependent on the assessment of additional workload as a result thereof on the CAT. The additional information called for for this purpose has not been received from all the concerned Ministries/ Departments.

#### **Economic Relations with South Korea**

1119. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to improve bilateral economic relations with South Korea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a scope to further expand economic cooperation with that country;

(d) if so, the areas in which economic cooperation has been established in the past; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by both the countries to expand both Indo-Korean bilateral economic relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) Government of India has been maintaining close contacts with the Government of the Republic of Korea (RoK) in the matter of expanding economic relations between the two countries.

The visit of the Indian Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, to RoK in September, 1993 and that of the RoK President Kim Young Sam, to India in February, 1996 gave a strong impetus to our economic and commercial relations.

India-RoK trade has been steadily increasing. There has been a notable growth in RoK's investments in India in recent years. Presently it is the fifth largest investor in India.

With a view to maintaining regular exchange on economic matters, an agreement to set up a Joint Commission between the two countries was signed during the RoK President's visit to India in February, 1996.

There is continuing cooperation between the two countries in areas of trade, investment, joint ventures, ship-building, science & technology, technical training and related fields.

[Translation]

#### **Departmental Competitive Examinations**

1120. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Sub-Rule-4 of the Central Secretariat Services to provide same criteria of four years service to the promoted Assistants as being provided to the direct recruited Assistants for appearing in Section Officer's Limited Departmental Competitive Examination ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government would like to amend said rule?

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) For determining the eligibility for appearing in the examination, the 'approved service' was reckoned from the 'actual' date of appointment in the Assistants' grade. However, consequent upon an amendment to the rules issued on 21.6.95, such service is reckoned from a national date of the 1st July of the year following the year of the examination in the case of directly recruited Assistants and of the Select List year in the case of promotees. Due to this change, it has been decided in consultation with the UPSC and other concerned Ministries not to change the existing criteria regarding the length of eligibility service.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Right to Information**

1121. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating empowering all the citizens to seek information on the functioning of all public authorities in the country;

(b) if so, whether existing policy of the Government regarding classification of documents will not come in the way;

(c) the modalities for seeking such an information; and

(d) if so, whether there will be quick remedial measures in case such an information is refused?

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) to (d) With a view to introducing greater transparency and openness in functioning of Government and Public bodies, the Government had constituted a working Group on "Right to Information and promotion of open and Transparent Government" under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The Working Group submitted its report to the Government on the 21st May, 1997. It has prepared for consideration of the Government a draft "Freedom of Information Bill". In order to ensure that flow of information to the public is not impeded by other laws and rules, the Group has recommended amendments to section 5 of the official Secrets Act, 1923, Sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 together with consequential amendments in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, Rule 11 of the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and the Manual of Departmental Security Instructions relating to classification of information. The "Freedom of Information Bill" also contains modalities for seeking information as also remedial measures in cases where access to information is refused.

The recommendation of the Working Group for legislation of the "Freedom of Information Bill" is in an advanced stage of consideration. The Ministries/ Departments administering the aforesaid Acts and other provisions are separately taking action in respect of these recommendations.

[Translation]

#### Generation of Power

1122. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme to generate power bagasse of sugar-cane is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of electricity in Megawatt likely to be generated from the bagasse of sugarcane; and

(d) the demand of electricity likely to be fulfilled by this source?

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) A National Programme on Bagasse based Cogeneration is under implementation. The Programme provides for capital support of upto Rs. 2 Crore per MW for twelve demonstration projects for optimal cogeneration. The Programme also provides for financial incentives ranging from Rs.15 Lakhs per MW to 35 Lakh per MW, depending on the project parameters, in the form of Interest Subsidy to the Financial Institution(s) to reduce interest rates for the Term Loan(s) provided by them for such cogeneration projects. In addition, promotional activities such as organisation of training etc., are also supported under the Programme.

(c) and (d) The potential for bagasse based cogeneration is estimated to be about 3500 MW; so far 19 cogeneration projects aggregating 82 MW of surplus power generation have been set up in the country. 17 projects aggregating to about 100 MW are reported to be under various stages of implementation.

[English]

#### Net working of various Departments

1123. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADoba MANDLIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received by National Informatics Centre from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for net working of its various departments as a step towards total computerisation ;

(b) the status of work completed and work in hand at present;

(c) whether there is undue delay in execution of the project;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the project are likely to be completed?

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) In the case of Maharashtra, during the NIC State Coordination Committee meeting held on 6th October 1997 under the Chairmanship