

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------------|-----|----|
| North Eastern | 8 | 4 |
| Northeast Frontier | 28 | - |
| Southern | 80 | 17 |
| South Central | 49 | 10 |
| South Eastern | 22 | - |
| Western | 138 | - |

Action is on hand to appoint more RTSAs on Eastern and Western Railways.

(c) No specific time frame has been set for clearing these applications.

Enquiry against Officers of Air India

5324. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether any departmental vigilance enquiry has been initiated against the GM (contracts) and the Project Manager, Air India for awarding a contract for Laying Polyurethane Flooring at Air India Engineering Complex Santacruz, Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the inquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Urban Transport Development Fund

5325. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Urban Transport Development fund.

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be spent during the Ninth Five Year Plan under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The Sub-group on Urban Transport set up by M/o Urban Affairs and Employment has recommended that a National Urban Transport Development Fund be set up. The main objectives of creating such a fund are:

(i) Financial support for mass urban transportation projects in million plus cities and traffic

improvement measures in all cities through equity, soft loans and grants;

(ii) Financing of feasibility reports and detailed project reports to the extent of 50% of costs;

(iii) Financial support for training and visit programmes in the field of urban transport within India and abroad;

(iv) Financial support for workshops, seminars etc. in the field for urban transport.

(c) The sub-group has recommended that to begin with a seed money of Rs. 500 crore should be provided by the Central Government through budgetary allocations during Ninth Five Year Plan. In addition, an equal amount can be raised through dedicated taxes/cesses on selected Central levies in million plus cities. A final decision in this regard is yet to be taken and therefore, the question of expenditure does not arise.

Rural Connectivity Programme

5326. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds sanctioned under Rural Connectivity Programme to the different States/Union Territories during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the mechanism recommended for the utilisation and execution of projects sanctioned under the scheme;

(c) whether in the State of Orissa the projects are being execute on job work basis without going into the process of inviting the tenders: and

(d) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Professional Allowance for Non-Technical Staff in Defence

5327. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations made by the high power committee headed by the Defence Secretary for the professional qualification allowance for the non-technical officers in the Ministry have been accepted by the Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the financial implication involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The High Power Committee