

(c) if so, steps to be taken for promotion of departmental candidates on seniority basis; and

(d) number of departmental candidates promoted on the basis of seniority during the last 3 years?

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) The posts at the level of Adviser in the Planning Commission are filled by promotion/transfer on deputation (including short term contract)/direct recruitment. The posts at the level of Additional Adviser, Joint Adviser, Deputy Adviser, Senior Research Officer and Research Officer are filled by composite method viz. promotion/transfer on deputation (including short term contract) failing which by direct recruitment and some percentage, in case of SRO's and RO's, on direct recruitment basis. The selection of Adviser/Additional Adviser is made by a Committee constituted by Planning Commission and for others through UPSC.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Departmental candidates have to come.

(c) and (d) through UPSC/ Selection Committee of the Planning Commission for promotions. Since these posts are of isolated nature, no action is contemplated for giving promotions only on seniority basis. Since almost all posts of non-cadre (Gazetted) are of isolated nature and do not have any feeder grade, as such for consideration, no action is contemplated for giving promotion only on seniority basis.

#### Subsidy on Fertilizers

[Translation]

5133. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the benefits of subsidy on fertilizers are not reaching the users;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any action plan to check these irregularities; and

(c) the time by which the action plan is likely to be formulated and brought into practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Government of India provide subsidy to manufacturers and importers of fertilizers to enable their sale to the farmers at reasonable prices. Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price control. The maximum sale price of Urea, exclusive of sales and other local taxes is Rs. 3660/- per tonne. In the case of decontrolled phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers like Di-Ammonium Phosphate, Muriate

of Potash, Single Super Phosphate and Complexes Government have indicated the Maximum Retail Prices. There are no reports of sales of these fertilizers at prices higher than the maximum prices fixed or indicated by the Government.

#### Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

5134. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :

SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report captioned "Milworm Bites BARC" appearing in the weekly news magazine Outlook, dated 22nd June, 1998;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to draw up a policy against hackers breaking into the computer systems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Immediately on receipt of newspaper reports regarding hacking of BARC computers, a Committee was appointed to investigate the matter. The Committee, after scanning through all the messages, confirmed that only the e-mail computer network was accessed and the hackers could not lay hands on any sensitive information. The information accessed by the hackers contained some simple e-mail messages and some basic research results which would any way be published in scientific journals. There is absolutely no possibility of accessing any sensitive information from the computers used for computations and other in-house information processing, as these computers have no *physical connection* to Internet or any other network outside BARC.

(c) and (d) It is well known that computers connected to Internet can in principle be accessed by clever hackers by breaking into security locks irrespective of the levels of software protection provided by various software packages. However, necessary steps are being taken by the Department of Atomic Energy to further strengthen the security on the e-mail computers and reduce the chance of unauthorised access to even public domain information available on the e-mail, not only at BARC but also at all DAE units.