

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Government's Control over Functioning of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha

*648. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the nature and extent of control exercised if any, by her Ministry on the functioning including administration, recruitment and services of the professional and non-professional staff of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha; and

(b) what is the nature of financial and other assistance provided by the Central Government to this Council?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare do not exercise any direct control on the day to day functioning of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha. The Council is an Autonomous Body registered under the Societies Registration Act. The Ministry is represented both on the Governing Body and the Standing Finance Committee of the Council. The Government of India have power to issue directives to the Council. The Council submits Annual Report and Audited Statement of Accounts for placing before the Parliament through the Ministry. Recruitment of staff of the Council is done in accordance with the Recruitment Rules approved by the Governing Body.

(b) The Council is fully financed by grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;

Agents for Sale of Tickets and Reservation of Seats/Berths at Bombay

*649. SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed agents for purchase of railway tickets and to reserve seats and berths at Bombay for Western Railway;

(b) if so, the names and addresses of such agents for greater Bombay;

(c) what are the norms for the appointment of such agents and the rate of commission payable to them; and

(d) what benefits Government will get by appointing such agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Rules for Authorisation of Rail Travellers' Service Agents were notified in the Gazette of India Extra-Ordinary Part II Section 3 Sub-section (ii) dated 5-12-85. The main conditions laid down under these Rules for appointment of an Agent are given below:

1. A person who is—

(i) in possession of the latest Income Tax clearance certificate;

(ii) having office and premises properly maintained with adequate convenience and amenities in the city so as to accommodate the visit of sufficient number of customers; and

(iii) not convicted in a criminal case involving moral turpitude; may apply for issue of a licence to act as an agent.

2. The fee on payment of which the licence shall be issued or renewed shall be Rs. 1200, and Rs 600 for any additional licence for a Railway in the same station.
3. The security deposit on furnishing of which the licence shall be issued or renewed shall be Rs. 5,000 in cash and Bank Guarantee for Rs. 15,000. There shall be no accrual of interest on the said deposit.
4. The number of agents for each station and Railway shall be such as may be determined by the competent authority.

No commission is payable to the Agents by the Railways. However, the agents will be authorised to realise service charges from their clients, which shall not be more than Rs. 15 per passenger for securing reservation in classes other than second class and Rs. 8 in second class. But in case where the reservation for more than one passenger secured on the same requisition slip, the service charge shall not exceed Rs. 8 per passenger in excess of first passenger in the case of classes other than second class, and Rs. 5 per passenger for second class.

(d) The licensing of agents is not intended to yield any financial benefit to the Railways. It is primarily intended to help such of the passengers who are unable to find time to purchase tickets and make reservations themselves; and to isolate persons operating unauthorisedly and indulging in black-marketing of rail tickets who can be apprehended and prosecuted. This scheme has been introduced to comply with a judgement given by the Supreme Court of India.

Maintenance of Mound from where Buddha's Urn was Excavated

*650. SHRI LALITESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for maintaining and saving the mound from where Buddha's urn was excavated by Dr. Attekar more than 25 years ago at Vaishali;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also proposed to utilise the nine acres of land that was acquired 25 years ago around this mound?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The ancient Stupa mound at Vaishali from which a casket containing Buddha's relics was recovered is protected and preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India since 1964;

(b) Does not arise;

(c) Yes, Sir.

Non-Utilisation of SCs/STs Quota in Educational Institutions

*651. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:
SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quotas seats fixed for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in different educational institutions in the country are not being fully utilised;

(b) if so, whether the reasons for the same have been ascertained; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to fully utilise the quotas fixed for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes Sir.