

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the University Grants Commission is also considering to award fellowships to some teachers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for pursuing M.Phil. and Ph.D. programme in science and the humanities, including social sciences, for 1984-85 ; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) The Committee appointed by the UGC to enquire into the working of the Central Universities has among others made the following observations :--

"The Government of India and the University Grants Commission have been issuing guidelines for reservation. It is the responsibility of the Central Universities which are funded entirely from Central sources not only to ensure that reservation orders are followed but that adequate remedial courses are provided for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students. The Universities have adequate resources available with them to introduce such courses. The Universities should treat this as one of their social obligations for unlifting the weaker sections of the society. We, however, feel that this facility should be provided to the students up to the Master's level by which time, on special attention given to them, they must get over the social deprivation ; beyond that, they should, in their own interest compete for admission to higher courses. As only the best students are and should be admitted to the M.Phil. and Ph.D. courses, and since aptitude for research should be an important consideration for this purpose, we recommend that there should be no reservation for admission to courses leading to research degrees.

It is not intended that the present scheme of award of Fellowships to

Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students for conducting research be discontinued".

(b) and (c). The Commission had in 1982 decided to institute a Scheme for award of 50 Fellowships (30 for M.Phil and 20 for Ph.D.) for college teachers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on an annual basis. These fellowships are being awarded since 1983-84. The awards for 1984-85 have been announced and the selections are likely to be finalised in April-May, 1984.

Conversion of Darbhanga-Jayanagar Metre Gauge Line

*274. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 47 on 17 November, 1983 regarding conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga line into broad gauge line and state :

(a) whether examination of survey report for conversion of Darbhanga-Jayanagar metre gauge line into broad gauge line has since been completed, if so, details thereof, including total cost ;

(b) the estimated cost of conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga metre gauge line into broad gauge and construction of a new broad gauge line while retaining the present metre gauge line separately ;

(c) whether due to paucity of funds, construction of Sakri-Hasanpur line conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga line into broad gauge are being delayed ; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to construct a new Samastipur-Darbhanga broad gauge line while retaining the present metre gauge line ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) Not yet Sir. The Survey Report is under examination of the various disciplines. As per the report, the length of the section is

67.85 Kms. and cost of conversion is Rs. 15.37 crores. The rate of return is 3%.

(b) Conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga from MG to BG is estimated to cost over Rs. 12 crores. As no survey has yet been carried out for construction of a parallel BG line from Samastipur to Darbhanga, its cost has not been estimated.

(c) and (d) It has not been possible to make much headway on both construction of Sakri-Hasanpur MG line and conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga which are approved projects, due to constraint of funds. There is, however, no proposal at present, for construction of parallel a BG line from Samastipur to Darbhanga.

Use of Minor and Intermediate Ports in Kerala by Shipping Companies

*276. SHRI V.S. VIJAYA-RAGHAVAN :
PROF. P.J. KURIAN :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a request from Kerala Government that the Indian Shipping Companies be instructed to make use of minor and intermediate ports in the State as far as possible ; and

(b) if so, the decision of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Admission Policy of JNU

*277. SHRI P.K. KODIYAN :
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jawaharlal Nehru University had adopted a policy of students admission on the basis of merit combined with weightage to social, economic and regional backwardness in 1973 and implemented the same from the academic session of 1974-75 ;

(b) whether the above policy has been recently modified ; and

(c) if so, the details of the new policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) Since academic session 1974-75, admissions to post-graduate and research programmes offered by the Jawaharlal Nehru University has been made on merit determined on the basis of the previous academic record, performance in the written test and an interview. In determining the interse merit of applicants, a weightage of upto 20 points on a 100-point scale, was given for economic, social and regional deprivations.

(b) and (c). The modified admission procedure, effective from 1984-85 provides for admission on merit to be adjudged on the basis of a uniform all-India examination to be held at 21 centres throughout the country. There will be no interview for master's degree programmes. Reservation for SCs/STs and physically handicapped has been made at 15%, 7½% and 3% respectively.

Construction of Moghal Road as an Alternative to National Highway No. 1-A

*278. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ :
Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had received any proposal for construction of Moghal Road as an alternative to the present National Highway No. 1-A, connecting Jammu with Kashmir Valley ;

(b) whether the State Government had explained that the present National