

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for eco-development works in Periyar Tiger Reserve, requiring Rs. 734.85 Lakhs as 100 percent central assistance.

(c) The central government would release financial assistance to the state subject to the availability of funds and fulfilment of prescribed terms and conditions.

Employment and pension to Sportsmen

3130. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN
CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any schemes for employment and/or pension to outstanding sports persons who have represented India in the Olympics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any facility is made available to the Arjuna Award winners; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). Government has a Scheme to encourage sports by providing employment to meritorious sportspersons in various Departments/Offices of the Government of India. Under this Scheme, Meritorious sport-

spersons can be appointed to any Group C/D post upto 5% of vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment, through the UPSC/SSC, in relaxation of the recruitment procedure, if they are eligible and suitable for the post in all respects. meritorious sportspersons are also allowed age-relaxation upto 5 years (10 years for those belonging to SC/ST) for appointment to all Groups of Civil posts/services under the Government of India, filled otherwise than through competitive examinations conducted by UPSC, if they satisfy all other eligibility conditions.

As regards pension, Government have instituted a National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons, under which financial assistance of pension is given to sportspersons injured during training for competitions or during competitions depending upon the nature of injury; and to outstanding sportspersons who have brought glory to the country and are disabled as an after-effect of their strenuous training or otherwise, or to alleviate distress among those who are in indigent circumstances.

(c) and (d). The Ministry of Railways is giving 50% concession to Arjuna Awardees on II Class rail fares since 1.4.1988.

Housing scheme for defence personnel

3131. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced or propose to introduce any housing scheme for defence personnel and Ex-servicemen; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). Government have neither introduced any housing scheme nor

there is any proposal under consideration for the introduction of a housing scheme for serving or retired defence personnel. However, two societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, viz. Army Welfare Housing Organisation and Air Force Naval Housing Board, are functioning on 'NO PROFIT NO LOSS' basis for construction of flats on self-financing basis and their membership is open to both serving and retired defence personnel.

Proposal to popularise computers

3132. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to popularise computers in the country; if so, the steps contemplated in this regard;

(b) whether Government have also any proposal to set up village-based computers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Government is encouraging the introduction of computers in various sectors such as Steel, Oil, Railways, etc. for increasing productively and operational efficiency while fully taking note of aspects relating to employment.

In order to promote computer awareness among school children, the Government has started a project called CLASS (Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools) in the year 1984-85. This is being progressively extended to more schools from year to year.

Government has also taken action for using the capability of computers for input/output processing in various Indian Scripts which is important for wide scale use of computers in the Indian, particularly, rural environment.

Electronic Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited (ET&T), a public sector undertaking under the Department of Electronics, has initiated a project to make available personal computers at reasonable prices which are affordable by the public. Under the scheme, the various models of personal computers are available at prices from Rs. 10,950 onwards.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Maintenance and repairing of Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri

3133. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the proper maintenance and repairing of Sri Jagannath Temple at Puri in Orissa in last three years; and

(b) the central allocation made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). The following steps have been taken for the proper conservation and maintenance of the Lord Jagannath Temple Complex, Puri.

(i) Removal of accretionary plaster