

Ministry does not decide about the proper allocation of land even for the bus terminal and all that, this is going to hold up the opening of the new terminal which is under construction for the last four years. Let the Minister reply to all these questions.

**SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:** As far as the first part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, I totally agree with him that in the rest of the world, there has been full utilisation of the unutilised lands near the airports.

As far as our country is concerned, unfortunately, we have not done it so far. We are thinking of doing it. That is why I have said that for construction of hotels and motels, the lands have already been allotted in a number of places.

\*As far as setting up of Golf Courses in Delhi, provision of lands to oil companies, construction of shopping plazas, recreation centres, car parking and other passenger-related facilities, including car rentals at different places are concerned, we are in the process of doing it. The National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority are in the process of identifying the places and also trying their best to write, talk and meet with the Chief Ministers of various State Governments. I had, personally two meetings, one in Delhi and another in Bombay with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for removing the jhuggis and allotting them the land....(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:** Why don't you come to Calcutta for a chat? That is my constituency.

**SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:** We will be too happy if the State Government comes

forward and helps us. So, the purpose is to put up all these things which I have mentioned at different airports. These things are in the mind of the National Airports Authority. The Government is too keep to do all these things.

As far as Calcutta is concerned, I would write to the hon. Member.

### **Staff Strength**

\*367. **SHRI RAJ NARAIN:**  
**SHRI THOTA SUBBARAO:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to reduce the number of various administrative posts by 10 per cent is being strictly followed by all the Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the number of posts reduced under this scheme since its declaration; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the implementation of this decision in all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c). Pursuant to a decision announced by the Prime Minister in the National Development Council in December, 1991, instructions were issued to all the Ministries/Departments to review their staff strength with a view to abolishing posts by 10%. In addition, activity analysis of selected Ministries/Departments has also been undertaken to identify areas of work that have become obsolete/redundant owing to liberalisation/changes in Government policies, etc. with a view. *inter-alia*, to reducing the staff strength. Resultantly, about 18,000

posts have been abolished. Another 3500 posts have been identified for abolition. Efforts to identify other posts for abolition are continuing.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ NARAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has provided two types of information in his reply. On the one hand he has stated that all the Ministries/Departments have been issued instruction, but on the other hand he has stated that posts have been curtailed by 10%. I would like to know the names of the Ministries in which 18,000 posts have been abolished. I would also like to know the break up of such employees belonging to class I, class II, class III and class IV and also that of employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes. Moreover, I would also like to know that while curtailing the posts whether provision pertaining to reservation were also taken into account; and if not, what are its reasons therefor?

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, in 1992, there were 125 posts at the level of Secretary to the Government and up to 17 posts have been identified for abolition.

At the level of Additional Secretary, there were 99 posts of these, six were identified for abolition. At the level of Joint Secretary, 373 posts were there; of these, 52 posts were identified for abolition, that is a total of 75 posts to be abolished. This constitutes eight per cent of the total posts of Joint Secretary and above in the various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India.

With regard to posts below the level of Joint Secretaries, the total number of posts that have been abolished are 15,800 plus 2,500 have been identified for abolition as and when the posts fall vacant. But I do not have the details Ministry-wise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ NARAIN: If 3500 posts have been identified for abolition and efforts to identify other posts for abolition are continuing, then what is the Ministry wise break up of these 3500 posts identified for abolition.

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I do not have the information with me. We will make that information available to the hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: In his reply the hon. Minister has stated that some posts are being abolished, some employees are being retrenched whereas some posts are being identified for abolition. On the one hand, the Government talks of increasing avenues for employment under the new industrial policy and the Employment Guarantee Plan, on the other hand, it is removing people from their jobs. Will it not have its repercussions in other places in the country as well?

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: We would like to submit to this august House that the way to create employment in the country is

not to inflate the Government's wage bill. In fact, with the same money outside the Government, we can create lot more employment. The cost of employing a person in Government is much higher than the cost of creating a job. So, to the extent that Government employment is reduced to the level which is essential for efficient functioning of the Government: if the resultant savings are deployed elsewhere to create employment, that will be a net beneficial effect on the economy.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Sir, the hon. Minister has said in his reply about the abolition of the some posts but the question, which was asked by Shri Raj Narain was about the abolition of posts reserved for the Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes, has not been replied. The quota reserved for the SCs and STs has not been filled up all over the country. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to fill up the quota reserved for them.

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: There is no doubt that our Government has to honour all the commitments with regard to the reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. The posts that have been abolished have the justification in terms of their functional necessity. The criterion is not whether a post is held by a Scheduled Caste officer or not. The real criterion is whether a post is justified for its functional necessity.

So, there is no question of any discrimination against any officer belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

and other backward classes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: The quota of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has not been filled up completely. What are your comments on it?

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: There is no relationship between the two.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: In the departments where retrenchment has been done, has it been assessed whether the quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been filled up completely or not? In such departments where it has yet not been filled up completely, employees of these categories, should not be retrenched. Then their quota has not been filled up completely as yet. If abolition of posts in such departments is resorted to only the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be retrenched. It will be against the policy of the Government for clearing the backlog. Two hon. Members have mentioned that such backlog exists in the Departments where 18,000 people have been retrenched and, therefore, it is being suggested that backlog should be cleared there and employees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Backward classes should not be subjected to retrenchment.

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I have already explained that when a post is

abolished, the real criterion to assess is whether that post retains its justification or not. If any Scheduled Caste Officer is holding the post -- it is not a policy of retrenchment -- he will be redeployed. He will be given a job in some other Department. So, there is no question of this policy being used in any way to discriminate against the officers of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes or other backward classes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister says that the post will be abolished and the Scheduled Caste Officer will not be retrenched.

Now Shri Basudeb Acharia.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, there is a great crisis in wagon...

MR. SPEAKER: You talk on this question.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not yet said, "The Question Hour is over."

Now, the Question Hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

#### **Rubber Plantation**

\*363 SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake any project for rubber plantation in the traditional and non-traditional areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of rubber cultivation in the country, particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The Rubber board has been implementing a Rubber Development Scheme for the development and expansion of rubber cultivation both in the traditional as well as non-traditional areas in the country. The main components of this project include:--

- (i) Extension of technical, material and financial assistance to the rubber growers.
- (ii) Assistance to rubber growers in the traditional areas of Kerala and Tamil Nadu for modernising the existing old, uneconomic plantation by replanting with high-yielding cultivars and for expansion of area by new plantation.
- (iii) Assistance for new plantation in non-traditional areas.

The steps taken by the Government for development of rubber cultivation in the country including Orissa *inter-alia* consists of:-

(a) Planting grant @Rs. 8,000/Ha. disbursed in seven annual instalments limited upto 2 Ha. in traditional areas and 5 Ha. in non-traditional areas.