

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in the disposal of cases and in the matter of relief to employees financially by Central Administrative Tribunal;

(b) the details of steps taken to make the working of CAT meaningful and within the reach of common Government servant ;

(c) the details of the cases pending before Central Administrative Tribunal as on 31.1.1990; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the finalisation thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) from its inception, is adjudicating, a large number of pending cases transferred from High Courts and Subordinate Courts, in addition to fresh cases instituted. The various Benches of the CAT have disposed of a total number of 51894 cases uptill 31.1.90. This has reduced the delay in the disposal of pending cases and provided relief to the Central Government Employees.

(b) The Procedure Rules being followed in the CAT are simpler than those followed in the Courts. A nominal fee of Rs. 50/- only is required to be paid by a Government servant for filing an application before the Tribunal. It is not obligatory for him to engage a practising lawyer as he himself can defend his case before the Tribunal.

(c) A total number of 31570 cases are pending before various Benches of the CAT as on 31.1.90. Out of this 26576 are original applications and 4994 are transferred applications.

(d) The Government have decided to set up additional Benches of the CAT in addition to the holding of circuit sittings at

various places, with a view to reduce pendency of cases before various Benches of the CAT.

Abolition of Examination Fee

988. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish examination fee being charged from educated unemployed persons;

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are totally exempted from the payment of examination fees. Handicapped persons are also totally exempted from payment of examination fees for recruitment to Group 'C' and Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) posts. The fees presently charged from others by the Union Public Service Commission and the Staff Selection Commission for various competitive examinations are nominal compared to the expenditure incurred on the conduct of the examinations. Abolition of examination fees may lead to an increase in the number of non-serious applicants causing infructuous expenditure.

[Translation]

Constitution of Working Group for I and B

989. SHRI RALESHWAR YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a working group has been

constituted for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting ; its report ?

(b) if so, the constitution of this working group and the details of the issues which will be dealt with by it ; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to submit

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) By the end of April, 1990.

STATEMENT

In the context of the preparation of the Eighth Five Year Plan a Working group on Information and Broadcasting has been set up by the Government of India, Planning Commission, vide order No. M-12068/1/89-CIB, dated 13.12.1989.

2. The constitution of the working group is as follows :

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

- | | |
|--|----------|
| i) Secretary | Chairman |
| ii) Addl. Secretary and Financial Adviser | Member |
| iii) Director General, All India Radio | —do— |
| iv) Director General, Doordarshan | —do— |
| v) Principal Information Officer | —do— |
| vi) Director, Indian Institute of Mass Communication | —do— |
| vii) Director (Finance) Member-Secretary | |

Representatives of other Ministries/Departments

- | | |
|---|--------|
| i) Adviser (Communications) Planning Commission | Member |
| ii) A representative of Deptt. of Electronics | —do— |
| iii) Shri Kiran Karnik, Director, DESU | —do— |
| iv) A representative of Deptt. of Space | —do— |
| v) A representative of Deptt. Telecom | —do— |

Non Officials

- | | |
|-----------------------|------|
| i) Shri Girish Karnad | —do— |
|-----------------------|------|

- ii) Shri D.V.S. Raju
- iii) Shri M.V. Desai
- iv) Shri A.J. Kidwai
- v) Shri B.K. Karanjia

—do—
—do—
—do—
—do—

3. The terms of the working group are as follows :

- a) To review the performance of the various programmes in the Information and Broadcasting sector, both in physical and financial terms in the Seventh Five Year Plan 1985-90. The reasons for shortfalls, if any should be brought out.
- b) To recommend the physical programmes/schemes to be implemented in the Eighth Five Year Plan 1990-95 and the financial outlays required (including foreign exchange, foreign aid etc.).
- c) To indicate the yearwise phasing of the proposed physical targets and financial outlays (including foreign exchange/external aid) in the 1990-95 Plan.
- d) Estimates of additional employment generation, yearwise.
- e) To indicate the materials and equipment required, and the extent to which they would be available from indigenous sources.
- f) To assess the technological trends in the I&B sector and indicate a strategy for introduction of new technologies in the I&B media.
- g) To estimate the generation of inter-

nal resources of AIR and Doordarshan.

- h) To consider the feasibility of setting up a Developmental Communication Support System in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and suggest its linkages with electronic and other media on the one hand and the user Government organisations on the other; also to suggest the quantum of funds to be earmarked by user Government organisation for developmental communication.
- i) To examine the impact of the policy of the Government to grant autonomy to AIR and Doordarshan on their 8th Five Year Plan and long term implementation of the Plan.
- j) To make such other recommendations as may be considered appropriate for the implementation of the Plan.

[English]

Anomaly in relief to Pensioners and Government Employees

990. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned