

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c). Some suggestions have been received for introduction of a new superfast train between Bhubaneswar and Howrah. However, in view of availability of 9 pairs of mail/express trains including 4 superfast services, there is no proposal to introduce an additional train at present.

#### Merit-cum-means Scholarships

8787. SHRI PRITHVI CHAND KISKU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of National Merit-cum-Means Scholarships granted on the basis of Central Board of Senior Secondary Examination, 1987;

(b) the eligibility criteria adopted for such scholarships;

(c) whether all the students selected have been paid the scholarships;

(d) if not, the details of the students who are yet to be paid; and

(e) the time by which they will be paid the scholarship ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) (a) The Ministry of Human Resource Development has allotted 191 Merit-cum-Means Scholarships (86 for All India Senior School Certificate Examination and 105 for Delhi Senior School Certificate Examination) to the Delhi Administration for the academic session 1987. The Central Board of Secondary Education, Delhi has recommended 50 scholarships (14 for All India Scheme and 36 for Delhi Scheme) so far to Delhi Administration and the remaining 141 scholarships will be recommended soon after determining their eligibility under means test.

(b) The candidates who secure first 191 positions in order of merit in these examinations but not less than 60 per cent marks in aggregate are considered for these awards provided the annual income of their parents remains within the ceiling limit of Rs. 6000 per annum (pre-revised) after allowing the admissible rebates under the means test. This income ceiling has now been increased from Rs. 6000 to Rs. 25,000 per annum after allowing a standard deduction of 30 per cent of the gross income to the extent of Rs. 10,000 as maximum w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

(c) to (e). The scholarship money to the awardees in Delhi is paid by the Delhi Administration. According to the information received from the Delhi Administration, the applications are still awaited from the selected candidates. On receipt of these applications, the cases for award of scholarships will be finalised by Delhi Administration for the payment of scholarships amount.

#### Requests from Scheduled Castes Organisations of Kerala for Allotment of Forest Land for Housing

8788. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received requests from Scheduled Castes Organisations engaged in housing activities in Kerala for allotment of forest land for the construction of houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A petition for assignment of 200 acres of land in Survey No. 872/1 of Priravanthoor village of Pathanapuram Taluk of Quilon district, Kerala, to the "Harijan Avasa Karshaka Sangham", was received in May, 1987.

(c) The policy of the Government of India is not to allow diversion of forest