

too. The Centre is also providing financial assistance to the extent of 80% of the additional expenditure to the States for revising the pay scales of teachers of Universities and Colleges including engineering colleges coming under their control.

Staffing in RPO Bangalore

5030. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present staff in the Regional Passport Office, Bangalore is insufficient to cope up with the work-load;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide additional staff to the above Passport Office for the smooth and quick working;

(c) the details of additional staff to be posted; and

(d) when it will be posted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K.K.TEWARI): (a) to (d). No, Sir. Required staff complement has been provided to Regional Passport Office, Bangalore, as per sanctioned staff strength. However, the Staff Inspection Unit team from the Ministry of Finance is presently at Bangalore assessing the work load of the office.

On-The-Spot Checks on Speed, Punctuality and Proper Halting of DTC Buses

5031. SHRI VJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'on-the-spot' checks are conducted by the DTC authorities to check speed, punctuality and proper halting of buses at bus stops;

(b) if so, the number of such checks conducted during 1988 and follow up action taken by the authorities against erring DTC staff;

(c) the number of complaints of high handedness and careless attitude of bus drivers and conductors received by DTC authorities during 1988; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) DTC carries out on regular basis checks regulating speed, punctuality and halting of buses at steps.

(b) As a result of their checks, DTC during 1988, detected 737 cases of improper halting and lack in punctuality. Departmental action is taken against erring drivers.

(c) 2096.

(d) Depending upon the gravity of offence disciplinary action is taken against the defaulting staff. As a remedial measure, drivers with faulty driving habits are withdrawn from line duty and sent to the training schools for a refresher course.

Swedish Aid for Alternative Farming

5032. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item appearing in 'Economic Times' dated 21 February, 1989 under the caption 'Swedish aid for alternative farming;'

(b) if so, whether Government also extends financial assistance for the "alternative farming" or "poison free farming; and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. But, Government of India have not received any information on the subject from Swedish Government.

(b) and (c). The concept of alternative farming without the use of chemical fertiliser and insecticides is not possible in Indian context. The consumption of nutrients through chemical fertilisers was 51.2 kg. per hectare during 87-88 in India. Many developed and developing countries have much higher level of consumption of chemical plant nutrients than obtaining in India. In order to meet the increasing food requirement of the growing population, the use of chemical fertilisers upto optimum level in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilisers is being propagated. The use of insecticides in India is need based. Besides, in order to contain the harmful effects of over-use of pesticides/insecticides, Integrated Pest Management, using biological and mechanical control of pests, is being popularised.

Vacant Posts of Teachers in Government and Government aided Schools

5033. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of teachers lying vacant in Government/Government aided primary/Senior Secondary Schools in Delhi as on 31 December, 1988;

(b) the dates from which these posts have been lying vacant and the reasons for not filling these up;

(c) whether shortage of teachers in the schools has adversely affected the studies

of the students; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof and the steps taken to meet the shortage of teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Facilities to Nepal in Trade and Transit

5034. SHRI S.M. GURADDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to stop giving special facilities to Nepal in trade and transit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Nepal Government has asked for their restoration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b). With the expiry of Indo-Nepal Treaties on Trade and Transit simultaneously on 23rd March, 1989, the special facilities extended to Nepal under these Treatise have ceased to be operative.

(c) and (d). The Government have invited His Majesty's Government of Nepal to negotiate a unified treaty on trade and transit. During the visit of the Nepalese Minister for Foreign Affairs to New Delhi from 26 to 27 March, 1989, His Majesty's Government of Nepal put forward fresh draft proposals for corporate bilateral treaties on trade and transit.