

schools including schools located in tribal areas.

Recruitment and Promotion of SC/ST Teachers In Kendriya Vidyalayas

7223. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of posts of different categories of teachers reserved for recruitment and promotion of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas during the last two academic sessions as also during the current session;

(b) the details of those filled up through open recruitment and promotion of different categories during the last two sessions;

(c) whether there is any backlog; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to fill up those reserved vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the sabha.

Agricultural Research in Kerala on Disease Affecting Crops

7224. SHRI V.S. VJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Research work being done in regard to the diseases affecting agricultural and commercial crops in Kerala;

(b) whether any breakthrough has been achieved in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Sir. Research work on etiology and management of major diseases of agricultural and commercial crops is being conducted by Kerala Agricultural University and ICAR centres. In addition, time-bound *ad-hoc* schemes on specific problems are also operating at different locations in Kerala State. Research on diseases of plantation and horticultural crops is also being carried out at Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod; Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Trivandrum and National Research Centre for Spices, Calicut.

(b) Significant achievement have been made in identification and management of major disease problems of important crops.

(c) The most important achievement is confirming the association of mycoplasma like organism with coconut root wilt disease. Other significant achievements include biological control of aquatic weeds viz. water fern and water hyacinth; management of sugarcane diseases, identification of nematode pests of paddy etc.

Clearance of Projects of Veterinary College, Patna

7225. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects forwarded by Veterinary College, Patna for advance research was approved by the American Centre, Patna; and

(d) if so, the likely date by which the project is expected to be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Sir, a research project entitled "Embryo Transfer Technology in Buffaloes" to be funded from US-India Rupee Fund 'USIF', submitted by Bihar Veterinary College, Patna has been received by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

(b) 31 December, 1989.

Opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas in Tribal Areas of Kerala

7226. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of students enrolled in the different Navodaya Vidyalayas in Kerala; and

(b) the percentage of students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Tribes amongst those?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) 1,550.

(b) 19.9% and 2.8% from SC and ST respectively.

Cost of Non-Ferrous Metals

7227. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic cost of production for all non-ferrous metals is more than their international cost;

(b) if so, whether this has raised the cost of production of many goods based on these

metals and make them non-competitive in the international market; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to reduce the cost of production of these metals?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). The major non-ferrous metals produced in the country are Aluminium, Copper, Zinc and Lead. In so far as Aluminium is concerned, the price of indigenously produced Aluminium are generally quite competitive with the international prices of Aluminium metal. In the case of other non-ferrous metals like Copper, zinc and Lead, the domestic cost of production is higher due to lean grades of ore, low recovery from bye-products, higher power rates, small scale of operations and other input costs. The price of non-ferrous metals has a bearing on cost of production of manufactured goods to the extent of their use.

(c) Some of the steps taken for reducing the cost of production of Copper, Zinc and Lead in the country are:—

- (i) improvement in capacity utilisation and mine productivity;
- (ii) reduction in energy consumption;
- (iii) strict budgetary control;
- (iv) efficient deployment of work force;
- (v) debottlenecking and modernisation of existing smelters and refineries where necessary;
- (vi) application of new technology, and
- (vii) sanctioning of the integrated Rampura-Agucha lead-zinc project with a higher metal content in the ore.