

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the previous years Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates securing marks upto 35 per cent were taken if so, the reasons why they are not being taken this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Public Service Commission were requested to supply a supplementary list of 37 candidates (16 general and 21 scheduled castes) for appointment to Central Services Group 'B' and 7 general candidates for appointment to Police Services Group 'B'.

The Commission have intimated that they do not have suitable Scheduled Castes candidates to recommend and hence the vacancies reserved for them in the Central Services Group 'B' have to be treated as undeserved. As against the total demand of 37 candidates, the Commission have recommended only 30 general candidates for appointment to Group 'B'. Services and no more suitable general candidates are available with the Commission. The Commission have also recommended 7 general candidates for appointment to Police Service Group 'B'.

(c) Qualifying standard on the basis of which candidates are recommended by the Union Public Service Commission for appointment to the All India Services and Central Services is fixed by the Commission. Such qualifying standard is relaxed by the Commission. In favour of candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes keeping in view their fitness for appointment to various services. The Commission feel that it would not be in public interest to disclose the exact standard so fixed.

Bridge over the River Chapora

3803. SHRI AMRUT KASAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a bridge on the river Chapora at COLVAIE in the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu; and

(b) if so, when the work will begin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) Yes.

(b) An estimate for the sub-surface investigation for the bridge was sanctioned on 25.3.1976 and the work is in progress. Further action towards the construction of the bridge is dependent on the result of these investigations. As such, it is not possible to indicate at present as to when the work will begin.

Rural Electrification in Maharashtra

3804. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages in Maharashtra have not been electrified so far for domestic as well as agricultural purposes; and

(b) what further action Central Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are 35,778 villages in Maharashtra. 20,619 villages were electrified as on 30.9.1977. The remaining 15,159 villages were not electrified as on that date for domestic as well as agricultural purposes.

(b) Rural electrification programmes are formulated and executed by the State Electricity Boards. The Rural Electrification Corporation gives loan assistance to the State Electricity Boards, for implementation of these schemes. State Governments are also given Plan assistance annually out of which rural electrification schemes are financed and implemented.