

Filling up posts of news editors-cum-translators in A.L.R. Station, Simla

404. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the posts of News Editors-cum-Translators are lying vacant at AIR Station, Simla;

(b) the number of such posts lying vacant and since when;

(c) the reasons for which the posts are lying vacant;

(d) whether the sub-Editors (Script) working in AIR Station Simla are not being considered for these posts; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) (a) and (b) : There are no posts in All India Radio designated as News-Editor-cum-Translator. The reference probably is to the post of News Reader-cum-Translator.

A post of Sub-Editor in Grade IV of the Central Information Service, which was lying vacant has been converted into the staff artist post of News Reader-cum-Translator. At present, only one post of News Reader-cum-Translator is lying vacant at All India Radio, Simla since 17th October, 1977.

(c) The decision to convert the civil post of Sub-Editor into Staff Artists post of News Reader-cum-Translator has been taken only recently.

(d) Sub-Editor (Scripts) are eligible for being considered for appointment to the post of News Reader-cum-Translator through limited selection if they satisfy the qualifications laid down in the Recruitment Rules. The Sub-Editor (Scripts) at AIR, Simla is eligible to compete for this post alongwith other departmental candidates as per rules.

(e) Does not arise.

Rural Road Commission

405. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to set up a Rural Road Commission in order to develop roads, is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) expected period by which it is proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) to (c) . Rural Roads are a State responsibility and as such the question of creation of Rural Roads Commission falls within the sphere of State activities. However, with a view to providing for proper coordination financing and care of other aspects pertaining to Rural Roads, the Indian Roads Congress, which is a body registered under the Societies Act, recommended in 1972 the setting up of a Rural Road Commission at the Centre and similar Commissions in the States. This matter was placed before the Transport Development Council at its meeting in February 1973 but it did not find favour with the State representatives at the Council and the matter was accordingly treated as dropped.

Very recently, however, the Indian Roads Congress have come up with a modified recommendation indicating that if the scheme is not acceptable to the States, they may at least ensure that the money spent on Rural Roads by various agencies is handled through one single technically competent executing agency. As regards a Rural roads Commission at the Centre, they have recommended that since the main issue is that of funds, special funds over and above the present grants should be provided and distributed among the States through the suggested Central Rural Roads Commission which could also guide States in the pursuit of the Rural Roads Programme. Since, however, this recommendation has been received only very recently, it is too early to express any view in the matter, especially as Rural Roads are a State subject.

Cochin Shipyard

406. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 463 on the 15th June, 1977 and state :

(a) whether the Board of Directors have taken a decision regarding the demands of the workers of the Cochin Shipyard ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?