

(c) the number of years of service after a Section Officer begins to draw the maximum of the pay scale; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to remove stagnation among the Section Officers' grade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

The scale of pay of Section Officers is Rs. 350-25-500-30-590-EB-30-800-EB-30-830-35-900. A direct recruit Section Officer appointed through I.A.S. etc. Combined Competitive Examination, reaches the maximum of the pay scale after putting in 19 years of service in that grade and a promotee Section Officer reaches that stage after putting in 17 years of service in that grade if he starts with a minimum pay of Rs. 400/- as admissible to promotees under the rules.

(d) The next higher grade in the direct line of promotion of Section Officers of the Central Secretariat Service, is Grade I of the Service (Under Secretary's Grade). There is no quota fixed for Section Officers of the C.S.S. for promotion to the Grade of Under Secretary, as the posts of Under Secretary are filled from various Services including the Central Secretariat Service. On 1-4-1970, out of a total of 613 posts of Under Secretary and equivalent in the Central Secretariat 435 posts were held by officers of the C.S.S.

During recent years an increasing number of Section Officers have been promoted as Under Secretaries as is evident from the following figures :

1965	.	.	.	35
1966	.	.	.	45
1967	.	.	.	45
1968	.	.	.	55
1969	.	.	.	67

In addition, a number of them are able to officiate as Under Secretary or against equivalent posts in chain of short-term vacancies. Thus whatever is possible to improve the promotion prospects of Section Officers is already being done.

CONFERENCE OF STATE ROAD TRANSPORT UNDERTAKINGS

9058. SHRI VALMIKI CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI DEVINDER SINGH  
GARCHA:  
SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference of the State Road Transport Undertakings was held at Jaipur recently;

(b) if so, the main problems discussed therein;

(c) whether the conference recommended the participation of the Life Insurance Corporation in the share capital of the State Roadways Corporations;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) what other recommendations were made at the said conference ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) to (e) : The Conference of the State Road Transport Undertakings was convened at Jaipur by the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings. The Government of the Conference.

UNPLANNED SPENDING ON CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

9059. SHRI VALMIKI CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI DEVINDER SINGH  
GARCHA:  
SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Shri Aburi Rama Krishna Rao, a well-known Telugu Dramatist, there was too much of unplanned spending on the so-called cultural and publicity at the State level;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering for making the benefit of training available at the National School of Drama to the community as a whole; and