

Provision of computerised passenger reservation facilities is an on-going process and these facilities are provided at stations as per norms and subject to the availability of funds.

(c) and (d) For convenience of those passengers who cannot go to the Railway Reservation Office for purchasing the tickets, Ministry of Railways have framed a scheme known as Authorisation of Rail Travellers Service Agents (RTSA). The RTSAs appointed under the scheme act on behalf of passengers for purchase of travel ticket and arranging passenger reservations from the Railway Reservation Offices by standing in a queue like a normal passenger.

(e) and (f) The reasons are :

- (i) Mismatch between demand and supply position during the peak rush period which could lead to cornering of accommodation.
- (ii) Need to protect the computer system and software from unauthorised access.

[Translation]

Monitoring of Funds under Employment Assurance Scheme

*32. SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKER : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether effective monitoring of funds provided to the States under the Employment Assurance Scheme, is done;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether labourers in the rural areas get employment and development of rural areas is taking place as per the Government's plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Level Coordination Committee for the Rural Development Programmes is responsible for the overall supervision, guidance and monitoring of EAS. The States are also required to constitute a District EAS Committee in every district and a Block EAS Committee

in blocks covered under the EAS. The membership of the Committees includes district level officers of the implementing agencies, MPs, MLAs and NGOs. Similarly, at the block level, the membership of the Committees comprises block level officers of the implementing agencies, MPs, MLAs and NGOs etc. These Committees are required to supervise the implementation of EAS within their jurisdiction in accordance with the EAS guidelines and suggest to the State Government Steps which in their opinion are necessary for more effective implementation of the Scheme. At the Central Level, the scheme is monitored through monthly, half yearly and annual progress reports. Apart from this, Senior Officers of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, Department of Programme Implementation and Planning Commission also visit States and districts under the Area Officers Scheme.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Employment Assurance Scheme aims at providing assured employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work to the rural poor who are in need of employment and seeking it, besides creation of economic infrastructure and community assets for sustained employment generation. The assurance of 100 days employment extends to men and women over 18 years and below 60 years of age. A maximum of two adults per family would be provided this assurance of 100 days employment under this scheme if and when they seek it during lean agricultural season. Central assistance of Rs. 5577.22 crores has been released to the concerned States/UTs (since inception till end of May, 1997). The number of persons registered in various States/UTs is 269,92 lakhs. The employment generated is 10953.33 lakh mandays upto May 1997 since inception.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Funds to CSIR for R&D

*33. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has drawn up a programme to modernise and strengthen its R&D and demanded more funds therefor during Ninth Plan;