

(c) and (d) Government continue to follow developments in Afghanistan closely and have exchanged views with concerned countries on this issue, including Russia and Iran. India has also participated in the Tehran Conference on Afghanistan called by Iran during October, 1996 and has participated in UN sponsored meetings in New York during November, 1996 and at Ashgabat during January, 1997. During these meetings we have reiterated our support for the unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, called for peaceful negotiations among Afghan parties and emphasised the need for cessation of foreign interference for resolution of the conflict.

[Translation]

#### Survey of Halon Project

3361. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether survey to Halon Project (Narmada Kachhar) in Mandla District in Madhya Pradesh was started in 1986;

(b) whether this project has been approved;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which work on the said project is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) No information is kept at the Centre regarding surveys carried out by the States.

[English]

#### Brahmaputra Waterway

3362. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Assam to harness the river Brahmaputra as a waterway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Transport Ministers of North Eastern States submitted a Memorandum to the Government for development of transport sector in North Eastern region, which include setting up of terminals, night navigation facilities, maintenance of fairway etc. for development of Brahmaputra as a waterway.

(c) Dhubri to Sadiya stretch of 891 kms. of river Brahmaputra was declared as NW-2 in September, 1988. For development and maintenance of the fairway,

conservancy works like bandalling, channel marking are being taken up on year to year basis. Floating terminals exists at Dhubri and Pandu. A Scheme sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 60.20 lakhs for provision of additional floating terminals at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Tezpur, Neamati and Dibrugarh is under implementation. A scheme for providing night navigational facilities between Dhubri and Pandu is also under process. A fairway with 2 mtr. LAD is being maintained from Dhubri to Dibrugarh during the current year. River Conservancy work is proposed to be extended upto Saikhowa during 1997-98.

During 9th Five Year Plan, construction of additional permanent terminals at various locations such as Dhubri, Jogighopa, Pandu, Tezpur, Neamati with mechanical loading/unloading facilities and providing night navigation facilities for the stretch from Dhubri to Dibrugarh are proposed to be taken up.

[Translation]

#### Recruitment of Education Officers in KVS

3363. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :  
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court in the case of 'Ajay Hasia' in 1981 gave a direction to the Government to keep a ratio between maximum marks prescribed for written examination and the interview under the direct recruitment procedure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this direction is being adhered to in the direct recruitment of Education officers in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan; and

(d) if no, the justification of violation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) and (d) For filling posts of Education Officers by direct recruitment, selection is made on the basis of performance in written test as well as interview. Shortlisting of candidates is done on the basis of written test and the final list is prepared on the basis of the combined merit of written test and interview.

#### Statement

Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of 'Ajay Hasia' etc. Vs Khalid Mujib Sehravardi and others etc. adjudicated upon whether an institution registered under the Societies Registration Act is an authority under Article 12 of the Constitution, validity of viva voce examination as permissible test for selection of

candidate for admission to a college and whether allocation of 33.1/3% marks for oral interview is arbitrary and unreasonable.

2. The Hon'ble Supreme Court inter-alia held that Regional Engineering College, Srinagar was an authority within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution, that oral interview test should not be relied upon as an exclusive test but it may be resorted to only as an additional or supplementary test and moreover, great care must be taken to see that persons who are appointed to conduct the oral interview test are men of high integrity, calibre and qualification.

3. Hon'ble Apex Court also held that in their opinion if the marks allocated for the oral interview do not exceed 15% of the total marks and the candidates are properly interviewed and relevant questions are asked with a view to assessing their suitability with reference to the factors required to be taken into consideration, the oral interview test would satisfy the criterion of reasonableness and non-arbitrariness.

[English]

#### Education in Sanskrit Language

3364. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures for the propagation of education in Sanskrit language; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have formulated various schemes/programmes for the development of Sanskrit

language. These include financial assistance to Voluntary Sanskrit Organisations, Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas/Shodh Sansthan, Publication of Sanskrit Literature, eminent Sanskrit Scholars in indigent circumstances, modernisation of Sanskrit Pathshalas, holding of Sanskrit Seminars/Conferences, etc. These schemes/programmes are being implemented through Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, two deemed Universities and the Central Plan Scheme of financial assistance to States/UTs. for development of Sanskrit.

#### N.C.C.

3365. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of N.C.C. Cadets passed out for 'B' and 'C' Certificate every year;

(b) whether there are reserved vacancies in Defence Services for employment of such cadets who are holding 'B' and 'C' Certificate;

(c) if so, the percentage of vacancies reserved for them in Defence Services; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) On an average, over 50,000 N.C.C. Cadets are awarded 'C' certificate every year.

(b) to (d) For N.C.C. Cadets possessing 'B' and 'C' Certificate, a certain percentage of vacancies are reserved for recruitment in the officer cadre of the Defence Forces and weightage of marks is given for recruitment in other ranks of the Defence Forces. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

#### Statement

Name of the Organisation	Concession in Officers Cadre.	Concession in Recruitment to ranks.	Remarks recruitment to
1	2	3	4
1. Army	(a) 32 vacancies in each course in Indian Military Academy reserved for NCC 'C' Certificate holders. (b) NCC 'C' Certificate holders exempted from written examination by UPSC for selection for SSC (non-technical) course at Officers Training Academy, Chennai.		Subject to being found fit by UPSC and Service Selection Board.