

programmes. If a high power 5 KW T.V. Relay Centre is established at Etah, it will cover the entire sub-divisional headquarters of the district.

I would, therefore, urge the Government to consider the feasibility of installing a high power transmitter in Etah in public interest and to take necessary steps for its installation before the close of the current financial year to provide the benefits of the media to lakhs of people of Etah district.

SHRI KRISHNA SINGH (Bhind): Sir, the following may please be included in this week's apsmda:-

The Etawah-Gwalior-Jhansi road, a major portion of which is presently State Highway no. 37 of Madhya Pradesh, is a very important inter-State road which links one of the most backward and formerly dacoit-infested rural areas of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh with developing industrial and commercial towns. After the eradication of dacoity menace, this rural area is now undergoing a very rapid agricultural development. New Industrial areas have also come up near Bind, Gwalior and Jhansi, resulting in very heavy traffic on this State Highway. The State Governments are unable to develop this road according to the rapidly growing traffic requirements. I, therefore, request the Government of India to declare this important State Highway as a National Highway, for which Madhya Pradesh has submitted a proposal a long time back.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: We will consider the submissions made by the hon. Members and will try to accommodate as many of them as we can in the next week.

12.24. hrs.

RAILWAY CLAIMS TRIBUNAL BILL AND
METRO RAILWAYS (CONSTRUCTION
OF WORKS) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I would like to propose that items 16 and 17 of the agenda, namely, further consideration of the Railway Claims Tribunal Bill and Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Amendment Bill, be postponed till tomorrow because the Minister for Railways has gone to the site of the railway accident which took place late last evening.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think, the House agrees.....

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now go to the next item.

12.25 hrs.

COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-
GENERAL'S (DUTIES, POWERS AND
CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMEND-
MENT BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): On behalf of Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, I beg to move* that the Bill further to

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Sh. B.K. Gadwhi]

amend the Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 19971 be taken into consideration.

Sir, the Hon. House is aware that we have assured that we will be giving due importance to all the Constitutional authorities and, therefore, this Bill has been brought. Presently the maximum pension of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India is limited to Rs. 20,400 per annum. As the Hon. House is aware, our Constitution has assigned an important role to the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General. There is parity of status between the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Supreme Court Judge in many respects. The status of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General is unique in our federal set up, he being a common functionary for both the Union and the States. Further, after demitting office, C & AG is debarred from holding any further office under the Government of India or of any State—this restriction is not applicable to Judges of the Supreme Court. In view of the foregoing, it is proposed to provide pensionary benefits to C & AG as admissible to a Judge of the Supreme Court from time to time.

The maximum pension admissible to a Judge of the Supreme Court is presently Rs. 54000, which incidentally is also the maximum civil pension after the implementation of recommendations of the (Fourth) Pay Commission.

Presently, the other conditions of service of the C & AG are the same as applicable to a Secretary to the Government of India. He, therefore, does not have the perquisites which have been extended from time to time to a Judge of the Supreme Court. The Bill seeks to extend to the C & AG, other conditions of service except tenure and leave, as are admissible to a Judge of the Supreme

Court.

The Bill has also made some incidental provisions to improve the pensions drawn by persons who have already retired from the office of the C & AG.

Considering the constitutional importance of the office of the C & AG, and the need to maintain its dignity, I am sure that the provisions of the Bill will receive support from all sections of the House.

Sir, I move the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before going to this further discussion on this, one submission has to be made by Shri Manoranjan Bhakta.

12.27 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED
TRIBES

Thirty-first Report

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): I beg to present the Thirty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Twenty-first Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs—Insurance Division)—Reservations for and employment of, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Life Insurance Corporation of India Ltd.
