

14 clusters (Mini MADA pockets). Taking into consideration the scheduled tribe concentration contiguity and administrative viability, the Ministry has so far approved formation of 8 MADA pockets and 12 clusters.

Salination of water in Gujarat coastal areas

3548. **SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR** : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of fast salination of sub-soil waters in coastal areas of Kutch and Banas Kasha Border Region of Gujarat;

(b) the reasons for this environmental hazard; and

(c) details of the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. This is attributed to intrusion of saline marine water and irrigation without commensurate drainage facilities.

(c) The steps include :

(i) Prevention of saline water intrusion through bunding; and

(ii) Provision of drainage facilities in the irrigation system.

Representation of Jagjivan Ram Samithi of Karnataka on rights of untouchables

3549. **SHRI NARSING SURYAWANSHI** : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) is the Karnataka Adi Jambava Abhivrudi Sangh, now known as Jagjivan Ram Samithi of Karnataka State, has urged the Union Government to project the rights of untouchables in particular chamars/Madiga castes in providing jobs, education and in political representation, and

(b) if so, details thereof and action thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The representation given by the Samiti contains as many as 12 demands requesting to protect the rights of untouchable in particular Chamar/Mediga castes in jobs, education and in political representation in the State of Karnataka. The benefits of political representation, reservation in jobs and education are given to the castes specified as Scheduled Castes Tribes for various States/UTs. in the Presidential orders as a whole and not to any particular caste/community mentioned therein.

Proposal for abolition of lotteries

3550. **SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR** : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have a proposal for the abolition of lotteries;

(b) whether State and private lotteries are also proposed to be abolished;

(c) the guidelines sent to the State Governments to bring some discipline in the running of State and private lotteries; and

(d) the details thereof ?