

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The freedom to profess, practice and propogate religion and to manage religious affairs is enshrined as Fundamental Rights in Articles 25 & 26 of the Constitution. The Rights are available to all persons of all religious denominations including Muslims and the Constitution also confers the right to move the Supreme Court for enforcement of these Rights.

The Government has also set up the National Commission for Minorities under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 for safeguarding the interests of minorities including Muslims.

As regards the places of worship, the prime responsibility for the protection of religious places is that of the State Governments, who are required to maintain the law and order. The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 provides for protection from conversion of all those places of worship which existed prior to 15th August, 1947.

The Government has also enacted the Wakf Act, 1995 for better management of wakfs.

Sindhis as Linguistic Minority Community

3943. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to declare Sindhis a special linguistic Minority Community;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) The Government has been receiving representations from the Sindhi organisations like the World Sindhi Congress, Akhil Bharatiya United Sindhi Panchayat Federation, Akhil Bharatiya Sindhi Samaj, etc. making a number of demands with regard to their language and culture, which inter-alia include the one for declaring them as a Special Linguistic Minority Community.

(c) there is no provision in the Constitution for formal recognition or declaration of any section of population as a minority based on religion or language. However, the linguistic interests of Sindhis are taken care of by the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities under Article 350(B) of the Constitution.

[Translation]

Development of Baiga Caste

3944. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any scheme from Madhya Pradesh for the development of Baiga Caste;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon as on March 30, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per action plan of the State Government a sum of Rs.30.92 crores has been proposed for the years 1993-94 to 1997-98 under family oriented development programmes, community development, infrastructure development and establishment expenditure. The number of beneficiaries under these programmes would be around 1.35 lakhs.

(c) The Action Plan of seven primitive tribal groups of Madhya Pradesh was received only in the month of March, 1995; hence the matter was under examination as on March 30, 1995.

[English]

Misuse of the Legal Provision by the Police

3945. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the National Law Commission and the National Police Commission made suggestions to avoid the misuse of the legal provisions by the police;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to study and implement the above suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Reservation Benefits

3946. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess recipients of reservation benefits and the income groups receiving the reservation benefits in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact the majority of recipients of reservation benefits hail from urban areas and vast majority of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes population has received no benefits and reservations are being concerned by the elite population amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and