

taking into account the royalty payable to the sugar mills for bagasse and the cost of conversion of bagasse fired boilers into coal fired boilers are to be worked out after State Government finalise their negotiations with the existing sugar mills regarding conversion of boilers and the resultant quantum of bagasse available for the scheme.

Community Centres for Harijans and Adivasis

3503. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for establishing community centres for the Harijans and Adivasis in villages; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the progress made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). Under the Centrally Sponsored programmes there is no specific scheme for the construction of community centres for the Harijans and Adivasis in villages. However, some State Governments include such schemes in their Tribal Sub Plans and the Special Component Plans which are mainly financed through the State Plan resources and supplemented by the Special Central Assistance of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The details of the schemes vary from State to State.

Demand for Recognition of Urdu

3504. SHRI BHIKHU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newspaper reports in which a demand has been made for recognising Urdu as a second language in the States; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government for providing fullfledged status to Urdu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Urdu is already the official language in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. It is the second official language in the Telengana region of Andhra Pradesh. Recently, it has appeared in the press that the Government of Bihar has declared Urdu as second official language in the districts of Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Katihar, Purnea and Bhagalpur. The State Government is being requested to confirm it. Urdu can be given the status of official language elsewhere in accordance with the criteria evolved in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Central Ministers held in August 1961, for recognition of minority languages for official purposes. According to the recommendations made by the Conference, a State is considered unilingual if about 70 per cent or more of its population speak one language and if there is a substantial minority, constituting 30 per cent or more of the population of the State, such a State is considered bilingual. At the district level where 60 per cent of the population speaks or uses a language other than the official language of the State, that language of the minority group is to be recognised as an official language.

2. The Government of India is now proposing to review the entire matter.

Alternative source of Energy in place of Petrol

3505. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA:
SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are encouraging to develop an alternative source of energy in place of petrol;