

(d) and (e). The applications were temporarily filled by Delhi Administration because allotment policy was revised by them in January 1983 and it was decided to allot Tharas to the squatters figuring in the authentic survey list of squatters prepared by D.D.A.

Upto September, 1985, 1,586 Tharas out of 2,300 Tharas constructed from Special Central Assistance were allotted to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes who may not be from amongst the applicants. The rest of the Tharas are likely to be allotted by the end of current financial year.

The backlog against the release of Rs. 152.26 lakhs as also Rs. 69.70 lakhs released specifically for Scheduled Castes will be made good by D.D.A. on completion of Tharas under construction.

[English]

#### Review of laws to protect disabled

2426. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an urgent need for laws to protect the disabled which number about 70 million handicapped;

(b) their number has been increasing about 5 million every year.

(c) whether a review of the existing laws has been made and plans made to revise and make them fully comprehensive to meet the present situation and need; and

(d) whether laws as in Japan and Sweden can suitably serve as a model for introducing necessary legislation as to provide full benefits to the disabled?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (d). Government have examined the need for legislation to promote rehabilitation and welfare of the disabled in the country and have found there is no need for any laws for this

purpose. However, in view of the demands made by various organisations, Government have constituted a Committee in May 1985 to consider the need for a legislation in respect of matters other than reservation of jobs for the disabled. In particular, the Committee would study what legislation exists for other disadvantaged groups in respect of education, training, rehabilitation and other welfare services and to consider whether similar legislation is necessary for the disabled. The Committee would also examine problems faced by the disabled in the absence of such legislation. On receipt of recommendations of this Committee, Government would examine this matter further.

#### Meeting of Eastern Zonal Council

2427. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in September, 1983 meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council, some particular problems of development of the Eastern Zone were placed by the member States :

(b) if so, the details of the said problems ;

(c) the steps taken by Government to sort out those problems;

(d) the results achieved from the measures taken;

(e) if no measures to sort out those problems have been taken so far, whether that will be done now; and

(f) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The problems relating to the development of mining, rail and road transport, power, irrigation, forests and tourism etc. were discussed and the decisions taken at its earlier meeting held in April, 1981 were