

the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of minority and the categories of minorities in various States and Union Territories and category-wise population thereof;

(b) whether various categories of minorities like Muslims have their own religion and personal law; and

(c) if so, the outline thereof and whether Government recognise them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The term 'Minority' has not been defined in the Constitution or in any other statute. The Constitution has however, referred to rights in respect of their educational institutions of minorities whether based on religion or language. The Registrar-General of India has informed that Household population by Religion of Head of Household as per 1981 Census has already been published as Series 1- India, Paper 3 of 1984. Language/Mother Tongue data from 1971 Census was published as Series 1 - India, Part II-C (i) Social & Cultural Tables, for India and States and Union Territories and for districts/tehsil/town in respective State volumes.

(b) and (c). The people of some religious communities are governed under their personal laws in certain regards. The position in regard to the personal laws applicable to different communities regard to the personal laws applicable to different communities is that the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 and the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 are applicable to the Hindu community. These Acts apply to any person who is a Hindu by religion in any of its forms or developments including a Virashaiva, a Lingayat or a follower of the Brahmo, Prarthana or Arya Samaj and to a person who is a Buddhist, Jaina or Sikh by religion. The Christian community is governed by the Indian Divorce Act, 1869 and the Indian Christian

Marriage Act, 1872. The Parsi Community is governed by the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 and the Indian Succession Act, 1925. The Muslim Community is governed by the Muslim personal law which includes the Muslim Personal law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937 and the Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act, 1939.

Environmental Clearance of Irrigation Project

3787. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Adivasi hilly and backward areas specially minor irrigation is the main source to improve their agricultural income;

(b) whether almost all minor irrigation works in Maharashtra specially in Thana district which are nearly completed are also held up for several years for want of small forest land;

(c) whether drinking water supply scheme of Adivasi village namely in Patgaon district, Thana of Maharashtra is wholly completed but for want of forest land water cannot be supplied;

(d) if so, the way out for such problems; and

(e) why the work which was started before the passing of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is still held up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No such proposal is pending with this Ministry.

(d) Schemes for which full details are furnished are cleared without any delay.

(e) The Forest (Conservation) Act is not