

the Parliamentary Committee for Welfare of SCs and STs.

**Filling of post of Chairman Central Social Welfare Board**

4557. SHRI PRATAPRAO S. BHOSALE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) how long the post of the Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board has been lying vacant; and

(b) reasons for not filling the post ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The post of the Chairman of Central Social Welfare Board fell vacant on 19 January, 1985 and has been filled up on 23rd September, 1985.

(b) Does not arise.

**State Bills for President's Assent**

4558. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) number with names of bills passed by State Legislatures and forwarded (State-wise) to the President of India for assent under Article 201 of the Constitution during 1980-85 and dates on which they were received by the Government of India;

(b) cases (State-wise) in which assent was given by the President with dates of giving assent; and

(c) names and number of bills where such assents was refused (State-wise) and date on which such decisions were communicated to the Government concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Central grants contingent on transaction of official work in Hindi**

4559. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Home Ministry or the Department of Official Language have advised other Central Ministries and organisations that Central grants or financial aid to Societies registered under the Societies Registration Act and Autonomous bodies should be contingent on their transacting their official work in Hindi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the basis for this decision; and

(c) whether it does not run counter to and violate the assurances given by the former Prime Ministers on the official language of the Union ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The official language policy of the Central Government is based on bilingualism. With a view to use Hindi along with English, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a circular requesting the various Central Ministries and Departments to ensure that autonomous bodies/societies getting substantial grants from the Central Government also follow the official language policy of the Government. However, keeping in view certain practical difficulties, these instructions have since been withdrawn.

[Translation]

**Relaxation in provisions of Forest Act for construction works in Almora and Pithoragarh, UP**

4560. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of construction works in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh which were completed fully or parti-