

out, and separate tribal sub-plans drawn up for them.

The plan programmes undertaken cover all aspects of development, such as agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry, fisheries, industries, education, health, social services, roads etc. Allocations in respect of the State Plans of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, and in respect of the tribal sub-plans of Assam, Manipur and Tripura are given in statement I and II laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2981/178] The tribal populations covered are given in Statement-III laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2981/78].

Inclusion of Dhobi caste among Scheduled Castes

2404. SHRI HARI SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States where 'Dhobi' caste has been included in the list of Scheduled Caste or economically backward classes;

(b) the criteria followed for providing reservation for and assistance to 'Dhobi' caste; and

(c) whether some policy is being considered on all India basis for the economic uplift of the people belonging to Dhobi caste who earn their livelihood by washing clothes or who are owners of big laundries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL):

(a) to (c). The Dhobi community is specified as a Scheduled Caste for the whole of Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi and Mizoram and in three districts, namely, Bhopal, Raisen and

Sehore of Madhya Pradesh. The washerman community known as 'Vannan' is also specified as a Scheduled Caste for the whole of Kerala and in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah Taluk of Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, in the areas where the Dhobi community is specified as a Scheduled Caste, its members are eligible to receive all benefits including of reservation and assistance made available to the Scheduled Castes. However, in the grant of such benefits, no reservation is made for individual community among the Scheduled Castes.

Central Government have not drawn up any list of "Economically Backward Classes". There is however a proposal to appoint Backward Classes Commission to investigate the conditions of all socially and educationally backward classes and to recommend ameliorative measures for their upliftment.

Demand for enhancement of support price of Cotton

2405. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the cotton growers of the country have demanded enhancement of support price for cotton; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Posts of Hindi Translators and Hindi Supervisors

2406. SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the posts of Hindi Translators (Junior and Senior) and Hindi super-