

Uniform Civil Code

7802. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have referred the question of desirability of evolving a uniform Civil Code, especially with respect to the laws of marriage, divorce and inheritance, applicable to all sections of society, to the Minorities Commission;

(b) if so, by what time its report is expected; and

(c) what is Government's precise attitude to the question of implementing the Directive Principle laid down in the Constitution for evolving a uniform Civil Code and what steps has so far been taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIVSHANKER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The question of implementing the directive principle laid down in the constitution for evolving a Uniform Civil Code necessarily involves changes in the laws of minority communities. The policy of the Government is not to effect any changes in the laws of the minority communities unless the initiative therefor comes from those communities. It would be possible to take steps in terms of having a Uniform Civil Code only when such initiative comes from the respective minority communities. The Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 may be regarded as preparatory steps in the direction of evolving a Uniform Civil Code.

National Load Despatch Centre at Delhi

7803. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national load despatch centre is being set up at Delhi; and

(b) if so, the advantages thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): It was decided in principle, that the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) should be set up at New Delhi. The considerations for locating the NLDC at New Delhi are as follows:

(a) Nearness to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Headquarters. CEA would be the overall controlling agency, and the operations from NLDC would involve major national policy decisions to be taken by CEA in consultation with the Ministry of Energy.

(b) To ensure reliable communication facilities between NLDC and Headquarters of Regional Electricity Boards (REBs)/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) with which New Delhi is well connected.

(c) Nearness to large computer systems in order to carry out day-to-day operational studies of national grid for stability, etc., before deciding schedule of operations.

(d) Access to up-to-date meteorological information available with IMD at Delhi.

(e) Nearness to central generation organisations viz. NTPC and NHPC, whose Headquarters are at New Delhi.

(f) Economic advantages for its location near one of the Regional Load Despatch Centres with a view to making use of certain common facilities.