

Representation from Tamil Nadu Washermen Central Unions

8926. SHRI A. NEELALOHITH-ADASAN NADAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Tamil Nadu Washermen Central Union regarding inclusion of Dhobi Community in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details of the representation; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRINIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received from Tamil Nadu Washermen Central Union regarding inclusion of Dhobi Community in the list of Scheduled Castes in the States and Union Territories where they have not been specified as Scheduled Castes.

(c) Amendment in the existing list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes require legislation by Parliament in view of Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution. The above proposal, as well as many other recommendations, suggestions and representations in respect of various States/UTs, are being duly considered in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in consultation with the concerned State Governments and with the Registrar General of India and in accordance with the relevant criteria laid down for inclusion of any community in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The comments from some of the State Governments/UTs are still awaited and they are being regularly reminded.

"Research Institutions Working on Air Pollution"

8927. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of research institutions working on Air Pollution in the country and their achievements till today;

(b) whether Central Pollution Board and State Pollution Boards are having sufficient experts on air pollution problems faced by our country; and

(c) if not, the effective steps Government are taking to provide expert technicians and laboratories to these Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH) : (a) The main research Institutions engaged on air pollution work in the country are : (1) National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur, (2) National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, (3) Central Mining Research Station, Dhanbad, (4) Indian Toxicological Research Centre, Lucknow and (5) Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Some I. I. T's and engineering colleges in the country have small teams working on the problems of Air Pollution. However, all the research work has been mainly confined to an assessment of the problem of Air Pollution.

(b) No, Sir. The Central and State Boards are helping to set up laboratories and development manpower required for Air Pollution control. It will take sometime before these are brought to the desirable level. The Central Board, National Environmental Engineering Institute, Nagpur, and similar institutions