

(b) The total quantity of mica produced during the last three years was as under:

State	(in tonnes)					
	1980		1981		1982	
	Crude	Waste & Scrap	Crude	Waste & Scrap	Crude	Waste & Scrap
Andhra Pradesh	2,235	1,771	2,415	1,420	2,708	1,571
Bihar	4,610	2,098	4,908	2,381	4,776	2,387
Rajasthan	977	495	1,109	476	942	416
Tamil Nadu	12	29	93	33	68	3
Total	7,934	4,993	8,525	4,310	8,584	4,377

(c) and (d). Four mica mines in the district of Nawadah of Bihar State in the State Public Sector, have reported production as follow:

(Crude)

1980 (quantity)	1981 (quantity)	1982 (quantity)
55	35	19

Inclusion of Khatwe and Tatwa communities of Bihar in the list of scheduled Castes

2802. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the spot enquiries have been held about the social untouchability, educational backwardness and economic distress of the Khatwe and Tatwa communities in the district of Madhubani, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Saharsa etc. in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to include these communities in the list of Scheduled Castes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. An on-the-spot study has been conducted in the districts of Madhubani, Darbhanga and Giridih etc. of Bihar State regarding inclusion of Khatwe and Tatwa communities in the list of Scheduled Castes.

(b) According to field investigation, Khatwe and Tatwa communities do not fulfil the criteria laid down for the inclusion of a community in the list of Scheduled Caste i.e. extreme, social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability.

(c) The proposal regarding inclusion of Khatwe and Tatwa communities in the lists of Scheduled Castes in Bihar are being duly considered alongwith other such proposals, recommendations and suggestion in consultation with the concerned State Governments|U.T. Administrations, and also the Registrar General of India. The comments from some of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations are still awaited and efforts are being taken to get their recommendation. Further, any amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be taken only through an Act of Parliament in view of Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.