

empower the State Governments to grant environmental clearance:

(b) if so, whether any norms have been prescribed for the purpose:

(c) if so, the details thereof: and

(d) the guidelines issued to the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Modalities for delegation of powers to State Governments for according environmental clearance to power projects are under finalisation.

Inclusion of Certain Communities in the STs List

659. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the requests received from the State Governments for inclusion of some more Tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes during the current year.

(b) action taken by the Government of India on each of such request:

(c) whether Sagaras of Visakhapatnam District had also demanded for including them in the list of Scheduled Tribes: and

(d) if so, the action taken or being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Recommendations have been received during the current year from the State Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for the inclusion of two communities as Scheduled Tribes.

(b) These recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

(c) Representations have been received for the inclusion of Uppara (Sagara) community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) These representations are being considered in consultation, inter-alia, with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Drug Addicts

660. SHRI R. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of drug addicts registered in the Welfare Centres in the year 1994-95 in comparison to 1986-87;

(b) the reasons for enormous increase of the drug addicts: and

(c) the strategy proposed for the prohibition and drug prevention?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) According to the available information, the number of drug addicts registered with the Drug Deaddiction/Counselling/Rehabilitation Centres, financially assisted by the Ministry of Welfare during the year 1994-95 in 376 Centres was 3,12,118 as compared to 1627 in 7 Centres in 86-87.

(b) The increase in the number of drug addicts registered with the Deaddiction/Counselling Centres over the years can largely be attributed to the manifold increase in the number of Centres and the positive impact of awareness generated by the programmes of prohibition and drug abuse prevention implemented by the Government which has motivated more and more drug addicts to come forward for treatment.

In the absence of any nation wide survey with regard to the extent to the drug abuse problem in the country, it is difficult to establish that the number of drug addicts is increasing in the country. However, different studies undertaken indicate an increasing trend in drug abuse.

Peer Group pressures, curiosity, industrialisation/urbanisation, mounting tension, weakness of the joint family system are some of the apparent reasons which have rendered individuals vulnerable to social maladjustments and deviance such as alcoholism and drug abuse.

(c) The Ministry is implementing the Scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention since 1985-86 wherein financial assistance is given to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for running Drug Awareness, Counselling and Assistance Centres and De-Addiction-cum-rehabilitation Centres. This Ministry is strengthening the awareness building, preventive education programmes for drug demand reduction and expand Counselling, De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centres.

India Eco-development Project

661. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) the progress made under the proposed World Bank aided India Eco-development Project, so far:

(b) whether there is a controversy among the expert over planning, implementation and formulation of objectives of the project: and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the controversy?