

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Iqbal Singh): (a) No such work has been undertaken by the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

**Welfare of Nomads and Tribal People in Bihar**

1803. Shri S. C. Jha: Will the Minister of Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up any plans for the welfare of Nomads and Tribal people in Bihar during the Fourth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Department of Social Welfare (Shrimati Phulra Devi Guha): (a) Schemes have been included in the 4th Five Year Plan for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and of De-Notified Tribes in Bihar.

(b) A statement giving the details is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-363/671.

**Co-operative Societies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Orissa**

1804. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Co-operative Societies started for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Orissa during the Third Five Year Plan; and

(b) the manner in which the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people have been benefited?

The Minister of State in the Department of Social Welfare (Shrimati Phulra Devi Guha): (a)

(i) For Scheduled Castes—9 Weavers Co-operative Societies.

(ii) For Scheduled Tribes—30 Forest and other Co-operative Societies.

(b) (i) *Scheduled Castes*

Through Co-operative organisational assistance in the supply of yarn and weaving equipment, and in the marketing of handloom cloth.

(ii) *Scheduled Tribes*

Forest Labour Co-operative Societies save tribals from being exploited by unscrupulous money lenders, middlemen, and forest contractors. These Cooperatives also provide them with employment and occupation in the collection of minor forest produce and in the disposal of their stocks at reasonable rates.

**Principal Appraisers of Customs Department**

1805. Shri E. Shastri: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 3046 on the 1st December, 1966 and state:

(a) whether any decision for the upgradation of Principal Appraisers of the Customs Department to Class-I has been taken; and

(b) if not, how long it would take to finalise the proposed upgradation?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b). The scheme of the re-organization of the Appraising Department is still under consideration of the Government and a decision is likely to be taken shortly.

**Appraisers**

1806. Shri E. Shastri: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3046 on the 1st December, 1966 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Santhanam Committee's recommendations that the Appraisers should be of higher status, rank and be better paid than they are at present has been accepted; and