

The report contains a number of useful recommendations dealing with urban land policy including the measures to control speculation in land, etc. The report has been circulated amongst the State Governments for careful consideration and such action as they may consider feasible.

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES

3424. SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that very slow progress has been made so far with regard to the promotion of the welfare of the backward Classes by and through the State Governments and agencies;

(b) if so, whether Government contemplate to constitute a Central Department to function on the lines of the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs in the United States;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the alternative proposals for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) : (a) This is a matter of opinion.

(b) No.

(c) and d). The Government of India cannot override the executive authority vested in the State Governments by the Constitution.

ENQUIRY COMMITTEES FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

3425. SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the State Governments who have so far appointed Enquiry Committees to find out the reasons for the inadequate representation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in their services;

(b) the dates when the reports of such Committees were published or are likely to be published;

(c) whether the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes recommended in his Eleventh Report that such committees should be set up in all the States/Union Territories where these have not already been appointed;

(d) if so, the action so far taken in that regard; and

(e) whether copies of the already published Reports of the Committees would be made available to the Parliament Library ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) : (a) to (d). In accordance with the provisions of article 309 of the Constitution, the question of reservation in services and posts in connection with the affairs of a State, is the sole concern of that State and Government of India have no *locus standi* in the matter. It is for the State Governments to consider the recommendation made by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and appoint such committees if they consider it necessary. So far as the Government of India services are concerned, they have appointed a Committee and have also constituted a Study Team for this purpose. The Committee's report is still awaited; the report of the Study Team has been received and is being examined.

(e) The recommendations made by the Study Team in relation to the Services under the Government of India have already been made available to the House in reply to the unstarred question No. 835 answered in the Lok Sabha on the 16th February, 1968.

PROMOTION OF SECTION OFFICERS (CIVIL) C.P.W.D.

3426. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM : Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :