

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 :

(a) the number of Section Officers (Civil) in Central P.W.D. who are eligible for promotion to the grade of Assistant Engineers approximately;

(b) the number of Assistant Engineers appointed directly through the U.P.S.C. during the past six months and how many are likely to be appointed during the next six months; and

(c) the stage at which the proposal of reviewing the policy of direct recruits stands so as to either completely stop or to reduce it to the barest minimum ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI IQBAL SINGH):** (a) 530.

(b) (i) Number so far appointed : 49

(ii) Number of persons likely to be appointed : 81

(c) A proposal for stopping direct recruitment to the temporary vacancies of Assistant Engineers is already under consideration. After a decision is reached in this proposal, direct recruitment against permanent vacancies of Assistant Engineers will be reviewed.

**DEMOTION OF ASSISTANT ENGINEER (CIVIL)**

3427. **SHRI S. D. SOMASUN-DARAM :** Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Assistant Engineers (Civil) demoted during the past six months and the number likely to be reverted in the coming six months and also the reasons for their reversions;

(b) whether there is frustration and unrest among the Section Officers (Civil); and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken in restoring confidence and security among the Section Officers ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI IQBAL SINGH):** (a) The number of Assistant Engineers (Civil) reverted in the Central Public Works Department during the past six months is 17. No figure can be given at present for the coming six months as reversions, if any, will depend on the workload of the Department. The reversion of 17 Assistant Engineers (Civil) was ordered partly on account of reduction in workload and partly on account of Union Public Service Commission nominees against direct recruitment quota joining duty posts.

(b) These reversions should not cause any legitimate grievance as the Assistant Engineers (Civil) reverted as Sectional Officers (Civil) had all been promoted on purely *ad hoc* basis pending availability of U.P.S.C. nominees. Promotion of these officers was fortuitous because of the temporary non-availability of U.P.S.C. nominees against direct recruitment quota and they were well aware that they were liable for reversion at any time.

(c) Temporary promotions and reversions are inevitable in an engineering organisation where the establishment depend entirely on the work-load. A proposal to abolish direct recruitment against temporary vacancies of Assistant Engineers in the C.P.W.D. is under consideration. If this is accepted it will improve the temporary promotion prospects of Sectional Officers.

**CONSTRUCTION OF TAPPER DAM (GUJARAT)**

3428. **SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gujarat Government had submitted a Project for the construction of Tapper Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same had been turned down and if so, the reasons therefor; and