

(d) 3 recommendations involving inclusion of 6 castes/sub-castes/synonyms have been accepted and their inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh has been notified. Other recommendations of National Commission for Backward Classes are under consideration.

[English]

Release of Central Share

3727 SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
, SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA.

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Kerala for release of Central assistance for the Kerala Institute for Research, Training and Development Studies of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes (KIRTADA) for 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal received in December, 1997, consisted of two parts:

(i) Release of Rs. 20 lakhs for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Release of Rs. 11.97 lakhs as arrears for the years 1991-92 to 1996-97.

(iii) Rs. 20 lakhs were released as it was in accordance with the prescribed conditions. Regarding the arrears claim the State Government has been requested to furnish utilisation certificates for the grants released by the Ministry in the previous years.

Eye Banks

3728. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Eye Banks functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons benefited from these banks during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints about inactivity of eye banks in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to streamline their working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) 166 eye banks are functioning in the country.

(b) Year-wise details of persons benefited from the eye banks during the last three years are as under:

Year	Collection of Eyes Corneal	Grafting Done
1995-96	11,618	8,895
1996-97	13,517	8,245
1997-98	14,446	9,533

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Under National programme for Control of Blindness, financial assistance is being provided to Government as well as Non-Govt. Eye Banks for promoting eye banks. A National Fort-night is also observed from 25th Aug. to 8th Sep. every year for intensive motivational work on eye donational activities.

Illegal Deduction from Salary of ONGC's Employees

3729. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received from the ONGC Employees Association regarding illegal deduction of amount from the employees' monthly salary by the management of ONGC in the name of self contributory post retirement and death in service benefit scheme (PRBS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and