

under the roster should be filled only by SC/ST candidates and should not be de-reserved without following Government's regulation in this regard.

The Commission's decision has been communicated to all Central Universities/Deemed Universities in October, 1996. UGC also issues circulars/guidelines every year to the Universities regarding reservation policy.

Protection and Development of Minorities

3098. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken up fresh measures for the protection and development of minorities in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the names of the States where Minority Protection and Development Commission have not been set up;

(d) whether the Union Government are considering a new policy for the protection and development of linguistic minorities in various States; and

(e) if so, the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) 'Public order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the provisions of the Constitution of India. It is, therefore, the primary responsibility of the State Govt. to maintain law & order and to provide protection to the minorities.

2. Central Govt. has been taking several measures to keep communal situation under control and to provide protection to the minorities. Some of these measures are indicated below:—

- (i) sharing intelligence with the State Govts.
- (ii) sending advisories to the State Governments from time to time.
- (iii) assisting the State Govts. by providing the Central Para-military forces, ect. (The Central Govt. has also constituted a Special Force, viz., Rapid Action Force, for controlling communal riots and tensions).

(iv) assisting the State Govts. in upgrading their policing infrastructure.

3. The National Commission for Minorities monitors the implementation of the safeguards provided in the Constitution and in other enactments and make recommendations for their effective application for the protection of the interests of minorities.

4. The Government is firmly of the view that acts of violence against any community, wherever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and exemplary punishment awarded to the perpetrators of such violence.

5. So far as the development of minorities is concerned, the Government of India is alive to the problems of the minorities and very much concerned for their socio-economic and educational development. Various programmes/schemes have already been taken up in this regard. The concerned schemes are as follows:—

- (i) Area intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities.
- (ii) Modernisation of Madarsas and Maktabas.
- (iii) Scheme of Community Polytechnic.
- (iv) Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections; based on Economic Criteria.
- (v) Scheme of Maulana Azad Education Foundation.
- (vi) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation.
- (vii) Preparation of Multi-Sectoral Development Plan.

(d) and (e) Union Government is not considering any new policy for the protection and development of linguistic minorities in various States. However, as per Article 350(B) of the Constitution of India, the President of India has appointed a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities, also called the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities. The duty of the Special Officer is to investigate all matters relating to safeguards provided for Linguistic Minorities under the Constitution and periodically report to the President upon all those matters. The Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities in India has so far submitted 34 Annual Reports to the Government out of which 33 Reports have been Tabled.