

Government would provide financial assistance according to the prescribed pattern if such assistance is sought.

Backward Communities in SC/ST Lists

*399. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include backward communities in the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes lists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State Government has recommended the inclusion of any backward community in these lists: and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d). Any amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be made only through an Act of Parliament as laid down in Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.

The details of proposals received cannot be disclosed in the public interest.

[*Translation*]

Foeticide Cases

*400. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the recent cases of foeticide in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this evil practice;

(c) the names of clinics in the country which perform amniocentesis tests;

(d) whether the Government propose to ban such tests; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR):

(a) to (e). The Government are aware of the misuse of the pre-natal diagnostic techniques for determination of the sex of the foetus leading to cases of female foeticide in different parts of the country.

A Central legislation to regulate pre-natal diagnostic techniques and to ban the misuse thereof for determination of the sex of the foetus, is under active consideration.

Information relating to clinics performing amniocentesis tests is not being monitored by the Government of India as there is no Central Law regulating such tests.

[*English*]

Resources For Housing Needs

*401 SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the resources required per annum for meeting the housing needs of the country by the end of this century; and

(b) the details of fiscal and other incentives the Government propose to provide for land development and housing?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). The Working Group for the VIII Five