

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5854
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
NATIONAL SC/ST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO

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

(a) whether the `Parliamentary Forum for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes` vide representation dated December 16, 1996 submitted to the Government have demanded creation of a permanent Nodal Agency called `National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Authority` under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister for formulation of policy matters, planning, co-ordination, monitoring and effective implementation of all the schemes meant for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of our country and re- iterated the same again vide similar representations dated September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998;

(b) if so, action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) if not reasons for the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b & c) The matter was referred to the Planning Commission which did not find favour the proposal on the ground that the setting up of National SC/ST Development Authority would delink them from the mainstream of development administration and that this would seriously constrain their effectiveness besides involving heavy administrative expenditure to make the new arrangement work.