

Tribes and other weaker sections of the society;

(d) the provisions made in this regarding during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) the achievements made in this regarding during the Eighth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) According to 1991 Census, the rural housing shortage in the country was estimated as 13.72 million.

(b) and (c) Under the Indira Awaas Yojana which is a centrally sponsored scheme, houses are provided free of cost to SC/ST freed bonded labourers and other living below the poverty line in the rural areas.

(d) The IXth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

(e) During the VIIIth Plan period as per the last available information about 21.8 lakh houses have been constructed so far.

Autonomy to Kashmir

3859. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :
SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the actual concept of greater autonomy to J&K by the Union Government;

(b) the terms of reference of the Committee on Kashmir headed by Dr. Karan Singh;

(c) the number of sittings the Committee have had so far and the progress made towards granting autonomy to Kashmir; and

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) The Government is committed to grant maximum autonomy to the State of Jammu and Kashmir within the framework of the Constitution of India. It is not possible/feasible to spell out details in this regard at this stage.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee set up by the State Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. Karan Singh to look into the issue of autonomy are as under;

(i) To examine and recommend measures for the restoration of autonomy to the State of Jammu and Kashmir consistent with the Instrument of Accession, the Constitution Application Order,

1950 and the Delhi Agreement of 1952.

(ii) To examine and recommend safeguards that be regarded necessary for incorporation in the Union/State Constitution to ensure that the Constitutional arrangement that is finally evolved in pursuance of the recommendations of this Committee is invariable.

(iii) To also examine and recommend measures to ensure a harmonious relationship for the future between the State and the Union.

(c) According to information provided by the State Government, the Committee has so far held four meetings, and has collected extensive material, including views/suggestions from individuals and public organisations, relevant to the subject.

(d) No specific time limit for the submission of the report has been fixed.

Allocation of Fuel to Gujarat

3860. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any recommendation to the Union Government for allocation of liquid fuel for its various power projects;

(b) if so, the name and number of such projects and their requirements;

(c) whether the Union Government is unable to meet the demand of liquid fuel of the State; and

(d) if not, the time by which the requirement is likely to be fulfilled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) The Government of Gujarat have made recommendations from time to time for liquid fuel linkages for various power projects. The recommendations for projects for liquid fuel linkage within the capacity (in MW) allocated to the State of Gujarat are awaited from the Government of Gujarat.

[Translation]

Central Assistance for Rural Sanitation Programme

3861. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought central assistance under the Rural Sanitation Programme during the year 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount proposed to be provided to the State;

(c) whether the Union Government would provide