

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1550
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012
SC STATUS TO POOR PEOPLE
Namdhari Shri Inder Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government is envisaging any plan for uplifting of extremely poor and down trodden sections of country by giving them Scheduled Caste status;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a caste 'Mal' in Jharkhand deserves this recognition; and
- (d) if so, the details and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK)

(a) & (b): Specification of a caste etc. as a Scheduled Caste is done in relation to a State/ Union Territory, as per provisions of Article 341 of the Constitution. The criteria followed in this regard is extreme social, economic and educational backwardness arising out of the traditional practise of untouchability. As per the Modalities approved by the Government in June, 1999 (as modified in June , 2002), the proposal for any modification in the list of Scheduled Castes, is required to be made by the concerned State/ Union Territory Administration and agreed to by the Registrar General of India (RGI) and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).

(c) & (d): The Government of Jharkhand vide their letter dated 28.09.2012 has recommended inclusion of Mal (Mal Kshatriya) caste in the list of Scheduled Castes. In accordance with approved Modalities, the said proposal has been referred to the RGI on 15.10.2012 for comments.