

Extinction of Scheduled Tribes

4036. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain scheduled tribes are facing the danger of extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof with socio-economic factors for such situation; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the problem in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various socio-economic programmes under Tribal sub-plan are taken up for the protection and development of the tribes. The Government of India makes special allocations for Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) and does not insist even on the principle of supplementation. Important programmes for the primitive communities are taken up on 100% grant basis. A new scheme on development of PTGs will be implemented during the current financial year to help the PTGs to improve their socio-economic condition. The scheme will have in-built flexibility to cater to the specific needs of each tribe and its environment.

Atrocities on Dalits

4037. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of cases of atrocities on Dalits reported in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra during 1996-97, 1997-98 and in April and May, 1998, State-wise and month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Available information in regard to cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 is given below :

Name of States	1996	1997	1998
Bihar	810	710	Not Available
Madhya Pradesh	4075	4269	1059 (up to March)
Maharashtra	1352	831	241 (up to April)
Rajasthan	6623	5624	1226 (up to March)
Uttar Pradesh	10963	8500	825 (up to February)

Paraffin Wax

4038. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government through a notification have decided to remove all the controls on Paraffin wax w.e.f. 1.4.1998 which will cause unemployment to more than one lakh persons in this industry and causing 1100 registered SSI units in Kerala on the brink of closure/shut down;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reconsider this decision to protect the interest of poor workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) With a view to augmenting the free availability of paraffin wax in the country, the Government of India had partially liberalised the distribution of paraffin wax with effect from 3.1.1997. The Government have decided a phased programme for dismantling Administered Pricing Mechanism with effect from 1.4.1998. Accordingly, the price and distribution of paraffin wax has been decontrolled from 1.4.1998 and the oil companies have been allowed to fix the price on market considerations. Further, paraffin wax has been decanalised since 1.4.1992 and therefore, industrial consumers are free to import wax to meet their requirements.

Vocational Courses

4039. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to include certain vocational courses under Apprenticeship Act, 1961;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which such courses are likely to be brought under Apprenticeship Act, 1961 ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.