

(e) and (f) Paucity of fund is the main constraint in establishing health infrastructure as per norms. Therefore funds are being obtained from external agencies, wherever possible.

[English]

Exclusion of Income Tax Payers from PDS

962. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to exclude Income Tax payers from the purview of Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the time by which this decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Functioning of Police

963. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to change the functioning of Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (c) As "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, it is essentially for the State Governments to bring about changes in the functioning of their respective Police forces. Within the Constitutional limitations, however, the Central Government has been writing to the States emphasis in the need to bring about such changes. The stress laid by the Central Government has been on modification of the existing recruitment and training practices in the States and modernisation of their intelligence, weaponry and communication systems in order to keep pace with times. Apart from advisories, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the States through its Scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces as well as by releasing funds on the basis of recommendations of the Finance Commission. Improvement in the Police functioning is a continuous process and the Central Government is committed to ensure that the

State Government get all assistance to improve the policing in the country.

Adequate Power to National Commission for SC/ST

964. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government empowered the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to ensure Dalits of their rights and social justice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a memorandum has been issued assigning the duties of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the Department of Personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Section 2 Clause 5 Sub-Clause (a) of the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act empowers the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution or under any other law. For this purpose under Section 2 clause 8 of the Act the Commission has all the powers of a Civil Court trying a Suit.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Freedom Fighters of Telengana

965. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee under the Chairmanship of Ch. Rajeshwara Rao appointed to recommend the names of the Freedom Fighters of Telengana Region, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; District-wise; and

(c) the time by which the pension to those recommended freedom fighters is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) The Government had constituted the Hyderabad Special Screening Committee in 1983 to scrutinise claims relating to the Hyderabad Liberation Movement. The Screening Committee was reconstituted from time to time and the latest Committee was headed by Shri Ch. Rajeshwara Rao. Based on this recommendations of the various Committees so far pension has been sanctioned in 7,000 cases. The last recommendations of the Committee have been received on 31.5.98. and, therefore, it is not possible to give district-wise break up at present.

2. A writ petition making certain allegations has been filed in the Hon'ble Court of Andhra Pradesh in which the court have passed interim directions to the Govt. of India not to implement the recommendations of the Committee from the date of order till further orders. Cases not covered by the interim directions of the High Court are under process and all efforts are being made to finalise them expeditiously.

Lubricating Oils

966. SHRI TASLIMUDDIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the use of poor quality lubricating oil causing premature machine failure resulting tremendous losses to the transport and farm sectors;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to curb the production and usage of such lubricants;

(c) whether the private oil companies are using re-refined oils in their finished products;

(d) if so, whether this information is mentioned on their packaging; and

(e) if not, the action proposed to be taken against them and to make comprehensive policy to encourage the collection and re-refining of used lubricating oil using technologies that render it suitable for reuse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) It is possible that the use of poor quality Lubricating Oils may be one of the causes of machine failure in the transport and farm sectors.

(b) With a view to checking the marketing of spurious/sub-standard lubricating Oils and Greases in the country, the Central Government have promulgated the Lubricating Oils and Greases (Processing, Supply & Distribution Regulation) Order, 1987, which provides that no person could carry on the business of a processor

except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a valid license to be granted under this Order. This Order also prohibits carrying on this business of processing, manufacturing, blending, compounding, packaging, refining, selling or transportation of any lubricating Oil or Grease, which has been adulterated.

(c) to (e) The use of re-refined Oils conforming to the prescribed BIS specification is permitted for manufacturing Lubricating Oils. Used Oils, when properly re-refined and suitable additives are incorporated to meet the required performance levels will not cause premature machine failures.

Presently, the information regarding use of re-refined oils in their finished products is not mentioned on the packaging of the products of private oil companies, as it is not mandatory.

Reservation to SCs/STs

967. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

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

(a) whether the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had made any recommendations in its recent report that the SC/ST quota be extended to all appointments in the armed forces, the judiciary, scientific establishments and private enterprises.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in discharge of its duties as in the Section 2 Clause (5) Sub-Clause (d) of the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act, 1990 has presented its Annual Report recently. As per Section 8 of the Act, the Reports alongwith the Action Taken Report are to be laid on the Table of the House. Hence till the Report is laid on the Table of the House reaction of the Government cannot be expressed.

Issue of Family Cards

968. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :