

(d) if so, the time by which the above caste is likely to be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes?

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

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As it is a continuous process, no timeframe can be specified.

[English]

Construction of Government Houses

2060. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of houses constructed for Government employees in Delhi during Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise, category-wise;

(b) whether these houses has been allotted to Special Pool Accommodation;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the norms prescribed therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to construct more houses for Government employees during 1999-2000; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) 247 houses were constructed during Eighth Five Year Plan. The details are as under:—

Year	Type (Category)	
	III	IV
1994-95	135	—
1995-96	—	112

(b) Only four Type-IV special quarters have been placed at the disposal of CRPF departmental Pool.

(c) No specific norms have been prescribed for such placement. Placement is made on case to case basis on merit.

(d) and (e) 274 residential units have already been sanctioned for construction during 1999-2000. Of these 88 will be in Type IV category, 60 in Type-III, 98 in Type-V and 28 in Type-VI.

Deep Sea Mining System

2061. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Germany to test deep-sea mining system" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated September 1, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the efforts initiated by the Government in this direction so far; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred and the value in terms of money likely to be explored therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The development of a sea bed mining system is one of the major component in the Polymetallic Nodule (PMN) Programme of the department. These nodules are lying on the sea bed at about 6000 mt. water depth. India is one of the registered Pioneer Investor with an allotment of 1,50,000 sq. km. area at CIOB by the UN authorities in 1987. India will have to relinquish 50% of this area in a phased manner to the Authorities. India has already relinquished 30% of the area as required. The department has formulated a long range development programme. The design, development and testing of a shallow bed mining system has been envisaged under the joint collaborative programme between National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, an autonomous institute under the Department of Ocean Development and Institute for Konstruktion (IKS), University of Siegen, Germany. This joint development is the first step to demonstrate shallow bed mining system capable

d) working upto 500 mt. water depth. As a part fulfillment of the joint technology development agreement, an existing crawler at IKS was refurbished, modified and augmented with a manipulator, slurry pump, cutting systems, control system, necessary instrumentation systems and accessories by the joint teams. This mining system after completion of evaluation at Germany was shipped to India for testing in the Indian water. Preliminary trial for launching, maneuvering, retrieving, etc. were done at about 60 m. depth off Malvan coast near Goa. Further test to demonstrate the sand mining in Indian waters off Tuticorin coast during March/April, 1999 is proposed. During testing the performance of all the subsystem and the integrated mining system will be evaluated besides the sand mining demonstration. After successful performance of the demonstration in Indian water, a joint design report for deep sea mining would be prepared. Basic engineering and specifications of a mining complex module capable of operating at 6000 mts. depth with mining capacity of 25,000 tonnes of nodules per year has also been started under this joint collaboration.

(d) The total estimated cost for implementation of the first phase of this programme is Rs. 16.09 crore. The development of deep seabed mining system and testing upto a depth of 6000 mts. would be taken up in subsequent phases for which the detail proposals are yet to be prepared for getting necessary approval of the Government. The Polymetallic nodules contain Copper, Nickel, Cobalt and Manganese. Department has initiated R&D and pilot scale project to extract these valuable metals. Process parameters are planned to be established in the coming years to establish realistic techno economic viability of a commercial metallurgical plant. As can be seen the efforts are R&D and pilot scale demonstration in nature yet. Hence it is premature to make assessment of the value in terms of money to be explored.

Self Financing Universities

2062. SHRI A.C. JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special task force constituted by the Ministry has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details alongwith wide-ranging recommendations thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to establish self-financing universities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) With a view to suggesting amendments to the UGC Act, 1956, to provide for suitable safeguards against the incidence of fake universities as also to empower the Commission to cope with the emerging challenges with confidence and to strengthen and restructure the Commission, the Government of India had constituted a Task Force that has since submitted its report on 15th February, 1999.

The important recommendations of the Task Force include (a) provision for five whole-time members in the Commission in addition to the Chairman; (b) punishment with imprisonment for a term ranging between one year and three years and/or fine ranging between one lakh and 10 lakh rupees for contravention of the provisions of Sections 22 and 23 of UGC Act; (c) provision for affording opportunity for establishment of private or self-financing universities in the country, subject, of course, to the observance of the prescribed rules for establishment of such universities; and (d) provision for the regulation of the functioning of foreign universities/institutions in respect of any programmes in India and also recognition of universities or institutions which confer degrees/diplomas/certificates.

(c) and (d) In the context of resource crunch faced by the Government, the UGC was asked to evolve guidelines for establishment of self-financing universities. The guidelines submitted by UGC were considered by the Government in consultation with the Ministries/agencies concerned and the Government introduced "The Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 1995" in the Rajya Sabha to provide for establishment of self-financing private universities in the country and to regulate their functioning by enacting an enabling legislation on the subject.

Fertilizer Projects

2063. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing fertilizer projects in the country both in public and private sectors;

(b) the present status of each project alongwith the target date of completion;