

(a) whether the Government have started any new scheme for the development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Castes in 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the minimum number of persons likely to be benefited therefrom;

(d) whether the Government propose to open hostel at block levels in order to uplift the educational status of these sections; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The details are as follows:—

Scheduled Tribes: A new Central scheme of Development of Primitive Tribal Groups has started in 1998. It covers activities which are generally not covered by any existing scheme. 75 Primitive Tribal Groups are likely to benefit from the scheme.

Other Backward Classes: Five new schemes have been approved as mentioned below:

- (i) Pre-Examination Coaching to OBCs.
- (ii) Pre-Matric Scholarship.
- (iii) Post-Matric Scholarship.
- (iv) Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls.
- (v) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations.

Number of beneficiaries under each scheme has not yet become available, as no funds have been released so far under these schemes.

(d) and (e) Under the schemes of Boys and Girls Hostels for SCs, STs and OBCs, financial assistance is extended to States/UTs for construction of hostels, on the pattern applicable.

Freedom Fighter Pension

2022. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received letters from the Members of Parliament for sanction of Swatantrata Senani Pension during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such recommendation letters on the basis of which Swatantrata Senani Pension has been sanctioned and the number of cases rejected by the Government;

(d) whether the Government propose to dispose of the cases of sanctioning Swatantrata Senani Samman Pension expeditently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of letters received from the Members of Parliament in this regard is mentioned below:—

| Year | No. of letters received |
|------|-------------------------|
| 1996 | 2866 |
| 1997 | 3195 |
| 1998 | 1306 |

(c) Samman Pension is sanctioned only in those cases which fulfill the eligibility criteria and are in conformity with the prescribed procedure. The number of cases in which Samman Pension was sanctioned during the last three years is given below:—

| Year | No. of cases sanctioned |
|------|-------------------------|
| 1996 | 427 |
| 1997 | 443 |
| 1998 | 684 |

These include cases in which recommendations were received from the Members of Parliament. Separate information in regard to cases recommended by the Members of Parliament is not maintained in this connection.

(d) and (e) The receipt and disposal of applications for sanction of Samman Pension is a continuous process. Efforts are made to dispose of the cases as early as possible.

Prison
Tihar Jail

2023. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'B' category has been eliminated in Tihar Jail;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are considering to restore the 'B' grade in Tihar Jail;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have abolished the system of classification of prisoners into 'B' and 'C' class as provided for in Delhi Jail Manual on the recommendations of "Rationalisation of Classification of Prisoners Committee" headed by Mrs. Justice Santosh Duggal, as such classifications cannot be justified on Santosh Duggal, as such classifications cannot be justified on the Constitutional and Human-Rights grounds.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The grounds on which the classification system was abolished continue to remain valid.

[English]

Sanctioned Project
9/5/99
Hogenakal Drinking Water Project

2024. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared the Hogenakal drinking water project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the cost of the project;

(d) the total assistance to be made by the Central Government to the project;

(e) whether there is any move to cover Hosur and Dhali area in Krishnagiri constituency; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (d) A Project proposal named "Hogenakal water supply and sanitation project", submitted by Government of Tamil Nadu, estimated to cost Rs. 788 Crore, has been cleared by the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) for possible World Bank assistance.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The project areas were finalised by the State Government of Tamil Nadu keeping in view the Flouride affected habitations.

[Translation]

Sanctioned
9/5/99
e/ **Barron Land**

2025. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the barron land in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the areas of land which have been made fit for agriculture during last three years;

(c) the details of sanctioned/approved projects under barron land development programme in Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98;

(d) the details of projects which have not been sanctioned/approved so far and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which pending projects are likely to be sanctioned/approved?