

[English]

Protection to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

9099. SHRI GRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are statutory provisions to protect the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society from exploitation and harassment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the guidelines issued by Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Constitution of India provides a comprehensive framework of various safeguards for protecting the interests and promoting the socio-economic status of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the weaker sections of the society. These safeguards are built in several Articles of the Constitution. Some of the important Articles are: Art 15(4) about Special provision for socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes; Articles 16(4) and 335 about Reservation in appointments to services and posts; Article 17 about the Abolition of untouchability; Article 29 about the Protection of Minorities; Article 46 about promotion of educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and to protect them from all forms of social injustice and exploitation. Article 275 about the Grants from the Union to certain States for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes or

raising the level of administration of the scheduled areas; Article 330 about Reservation of seats in the House of the People; Article 332 about Reservation of seats in Legislative Assemblies; and Articles 341 and 342 about the Specification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Besides, to check discrimination and to prevent atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Government have enacted the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

(c) Government have issued detailed guidelines for preparation of Special Component Plans for the Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plans, providing grants-in aid to voluntary organisations for taking up schemes for the development of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections. Further, the Central Government releases special Central Assistance for both the Special Component Plan, and the Tribal so released and for checking diversion of the amounts for other uses. Government have also issued guidelines on precautionary, preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures and on personnel policies, so as to check crimes and to provide appropriate protection and relief to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Assistance for Development of Metropolitan Cities

9100. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance sought by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and West Bengal for the development of the Metropolitan cities in their States; and

(b) the assistance given so far?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). The Government of Maharashtra and West Bengal have not sought any financial assistance from the Centre for development of metropolitan cities in their States. A request has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for Central assistance for development of Madras on the occasion of the Tricentenary of the Madras Corporation.

The State Govt. has been asked to submit detailed specific schemes to justify the request.

[*Translation*]

Pension to Retired Journalists

9101. **DR. BENGALI SINGH:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the States where pension is being given to retired journalists;

(b) the States which are not covered by this facility;

(c) whether Government propose to issue any directives to States so that pension is given to journalists in all States; and

(d) if so, the time by which such directives would be issued?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d). At present, there is no retiring pension scheme for the journalists. The question of issuing directives to the State Governments for giving pension to the journalists does not, therefore, arise. The Government is, however, considering the question of providing a suitable retiring pension scheme for journalists and for other workers covered by the Employees Provident Fund Scheme.

[*English*]

Employment Exchange Statistics

9102. **SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYAWANSHI:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employment exchange statistics do not provide a picture of actual condition; and

(b) if so, the measures which are being proposed to have adequate authentic information on employment situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) Employment Exchanges provide statistics of job-seekers registered with them, not all of whom are necessary unemployed.

(b) Authentic information on employment situation is already regularly available from the quinquennial surveys of employment, unemployment, conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

Construction of Houses

9103. **SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK:** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present system of construction of houses leads to environmental problems;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to change the present system; and

(c) if so, whether these changes are proposed to be implemented with regard to lower income group construction activities?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). No. Sir. The National Buildings code