

[English]

Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Pooors

553. SHRI PRATAP SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Pooors constituted by the Planning Commission has since finalised its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, when the Group is likely to submit its recommendations to Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b). The expert group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of poor has not yet finalised its recommendations.

(c) Two meetings of the Group were held. The members of the earlier Planning Commission resigned in November, 1990. Now that the Planning Commission has been reconstituted and new members have joined, the meeting of the Group will be convened shortly to deliberate in this regard.

Implementation of Mandal Commission Recommendations

554. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that there are mistakes in classifying the communities in the OBC list by the Mandal Commission;

(b) if so, the steps taken to rectify them;

(c) whether the Muslim Community as

a whole is likely to be considered as OBC for getting benefits under Mandal Commission recommendation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): (a) to (d). The decision to provide 27% reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) in the first phase covers only those castes and communities which are common to both the lists in the Report of the Mandal Commission and the State Government lists.

The above decision was taken in order to avail of the benefits of the long experience of a number of States in preparing lists of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) and also in order to ensure harmonious and quick implementation. Therefore, for the purposes of implementation of Government decision, such castes and communities which are not included in the Mandal List but are included in the State Lists and vice-versa would not be eligible for the benefits of reservation. This decision is a safeguard also against any mistakes that might have crept in the massive nation-wise exercise undertaken by the Mandal Commission to identify SEBCs. Wherever certain Muslim communities are common to both the lists, they would also be eligible for the benefits of the reservation policy. However, the decision of the Government has been stayed by the Supreme Court except the identification of castes and communities as SEBCs as per aforesaid decision.

Financial Assistance for Jails in Kerala

555. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has submitted any scheme to the Union Govern-