

(a) the present composition of the Minorities Commission;

(b) whether it is a fact that almost all the members of the Minorities Commission except its Chairman have retired and the vacancies have not been filled up;

(c) if so, the dates when each member retired;

(d) the reasons for delay in making the appointments; and

(e) by what time Government propose to reconstitute the Minorities Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : (a) to (e). The term of the present Chairman has been extended till further orders. The posts of other four members had fallen vacant because of the expiry of their tenure on 1-8-85, 5-8-85, 6-8-85 and 16-9-85. One new member namely Shri Homi J.H. Taleyarkhan has already joined the Commission on 16th Nov., 1985. While action is on hand to fill up the vacancies expeditiously, no definite time schedule can be indicated for filling up of the same.

Income Limit for Benefits to SCs and STs

*632. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :
DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the present limit of annual income fixed for parents of SC/ST students to get various benefits in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka have sent a proposal to raise the annual income limit of parents of SC/ST students for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : (a) to (c). The present limit of annual income

fixed for parents of SCs/STs students for the undermentioned schemes are given below—

(i) Post matric scholarships	Rs. 12,000 per annum
(ii) Pre-matric scholarships	Rs. 6,000 per annum
(iii) Coaching and allied scheme	Rs. 12,000 per annum
(iv) Girls hostels	} No income limit fixed.
(v) Book Banks	

A proposal to revise the income limit in respect of scheme No. (i) only i.e. Post matric scholarships has been received from the Government of Karnataka in response to Central Government's circular to all States/UTs asking for their comments. The proposal is under consideration in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Effect of Halley's Comet on Earth

*633. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether study is being made on the astronomical and meteorological changes on the earth due to the appearance of Halley's Comet during the year 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the Comet's effects on the Indian climate; and

(d) when Halley's Comet is expected to be in the earth's orbit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No perceptible effects on the earth's atmosphere are expected due to appearance of Halley's Comet and so no Meteorological studies are being conducted. Astronomical studies to understand the nature of the Comet and its interaction with the interplanetary space are being conducted by many institutions in the country.