

(b) and (c) : No communication recommending declaration of Ladakhis as Scheduled Tribes has been received from the State Government. However, a number of deputations met the Prime Minister during her visit to Ladakh and Memoranda have been received by the Prime Minister and the then Home Minister from Members of the Ladakhi Action Committee, Leh and a Member of Parliament requesting, inter alia, for declaration of Ladakhis as Scheduled Tribes. The comments of the State Government have been invited in the matter.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Sir, Ladakh is one of the most sensitive districts in the country. The entire people of Ladakh have been agitating—whether they are in Kargil or in Ladakh—for declaring Ladakhis as Scheduled Tribes. Perhaps the State Government is standing on a prestige issue, although there is no question of prestige involved in it. The people simply want that the assurance given by the high-powered Cabinet sub-Committee, which visited Ladakh in January, 1981, should be implemented. In the light of this, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, if the State Government is not replying to the queries made by the Central Government, what steps will the Government of India take to resolve the crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : Sir, the Government of India is fully alive to the deep-seated demands of the Ladakhi population that they should be declared as Scheduled Tribes, but there are some Constitutional requirements. We have to get the assent of the State Government before we can take action in this behalf, particularly as the Hon. Member knows, Article 342 of the Constitution does not apply to Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, the Government of India have taken certain steps in this direction viz. they have written to the Jammu and Kashmir Government and they are taking this matter at a personal level also. We hope some solution will be found to solve this problem.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Scarcity of Indigenously Produced Heavy Water in the Country :

*452. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are apprehensions about continued scarcity of heavy water indigenously produced in the country, putting constraints on self-reliance in nuclear power production;

(b) if so, the nature of measures being taken to overcome this situation; and

(c) what are the requirements of heavy water for various projects and the availability there of ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) In the long run, the shortage of heavy water will not be a constraint for the nuclear power programme, because Government proposes to increase production capacity within the country and achieve complete self-sufficiency by the end of the current decade. Meanwhile, action has been initiated to optimise production from existing plants and also to set up two additional Heavy Water Plants.

(c) The requirement of heavy water for the initial charge of a nuclear power station of 220 MW installed capacity is of the order of about 250 tonnes, followed by make up requirement of about 15 tonnes per year. The initial requirement of Thermal Research Reactor (R-5 Plan) will be 90 tonnes, with further make up requirement of about 5 tonnes per year.

Delay in payment of scholarships to SC/S Students in Delhi

*455. SHRI HIRALAL R. PARMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the Scheduled Caste/Tribe students in Delhi due to belated payments of Post-matric scholarships ranging

from three months to twelve months; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to minimise the delay and to ensure that delay is not caused on any flimsy grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b) : Government is aware of etc difficulties being faced by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students in Delhi due to delayed payments of Post Matric Scholarships. Delhi Administration have reported that delay in payments of Post Matric Scholarships occurs owing to late submission of claims by the individuals and institutions. On their part, Delhi Administration have been accepting applications even after the last date for receipt of the same is over. Claims are sometimes received from individuals/institutions after the close of the year. Delay is also sometimes caused due to incomplete information furnished by the students or for want of clarifications/requisite documents from the students. Delhi Administration have given due publicity, well ahead of time and this is also followed by circulars to the Heads of the Institutions, stressing the importance of timely submission of applications.

The Government of India, conscious of delays which have been reported and noticed, have been constantly laying great stress on the need for timely disbursement of Post Matric Scholarships to SC/ST students. The State Government/Union Territory Administrations have been addressed in the matter from time to time requesting them to take necessary effective steps for removal of the bottlenecks and streamline the working of the scheme. Steps like decentralisation at district level and making payment through Nationalised Banks and computerisation of the process, as done by the Karnataka Government, have been commended to all concerned.

On receipt of complaints from individual students too the matter is taken up with the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration and also the institution concerned. The Government of India is constantly in touch with the State Governments/institutions and stressing the need for further improvement in the functioning of the scheme.

Government of India have also decided to make advance releases of Central Assistance, equivalent to 50% of the previous years' requirement, to all these State Governments/Union Territory Administrations who do not have substantive unspent balance of central assistance with them. This is being done to ensure availability of adequate funds with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, besides the sum equivalent to their committed share available with them, so that there may be no hardship on account of non-availability of funds.

Leakage of Confidential Information by Government Servants to Private Houses

*457. SHRI B. V. DESAI :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have alerted their intelligence organisations and departmental heads including Secretaries of the Economic Ministries to keep a watch on officials suspected of leaking out Government information to private houses and even to multinationals through their liaison officers;

(b) whether during the last one year, Government have been seriously concerned about the leakage of confidential and sensitive information by Government servants to various business houses;

(c) if so, what were the total number of officials hauled up for such leakage and what action has been taken by Government against them; and