

[30 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

Constitution Amendment to declare Koch Rajbonshi, Tai Ahom, etc. as Tribals

1313. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring a Constitution Amendment Bill on the basis of Joint Select Committee's recommendation to declare Koch Rajbonshi, Tai Ahom, Moran Muttock, Chutia and tea population as tribals in Assam;

(b) if so, by when Government would bring the Bill in both Houses of Parliament; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) There is no such proposal pending with the Government of India at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The process of examination of the proposals in consultation with expert agencies as per the approved modalities is not yet complete in respect of the Tai Ahom, Moran, Muttock, Chutia and tea garden Communities. As far as the Koch Rajbonshi community is concerned, its inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Assam has not been supported by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Amount released for post-matric and post-graduate studies for SC, ST, etc. in Manipur

1314. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount required for post-matric and post-graduate studies of SC, ST and others for Manipur during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) whether the scholarship amount was released and disbursed on time; and

(c) if answer to part (b) be in negative, the reasons therefor and the measures taken to release and disburse this on time?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The following was the requirement of the State Government of Manipur under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship (which PMS, *inter-alia*, covers Post-graduate courses also):—

Rs. in lakhs

Category	2000-01	2001-2002
SC	43.71	48.15
ST	665.56	737.49

(b) The grants-in-aid, as per the requirement of the State Government, was released to them by the Central Government in time. The State Government disbursed the majority amount during the respective financial year. But the entire amount could not be disbursed by the State Government in time due to a ban imposed by the Reserve Bank of India and, as a result, the unspent balances were carried over to the next financial year, for utilization.

(c) In order to ensure that the scholarship amount is disbursed on time, the Welfare Department of the State Government has requested its Finance Department to release the PMS amount on a priority basis, as it relates to the welfare of SCs & STs.

Low literacy schools for tribal girls

1315. **SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:** Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that low literacy schools for tribal girls are fully grantable and financed by Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of such institution have not been paid grants for the last two years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several representations were made to Government by such schools and also by MPs; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not providing grants to these schools and by when the same would be given to such schools?