

Report of National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

t2923. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the importance of security and development of Nomadic tribes, the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes was constituted by Government in November, 2003 and reconstituted in March, 2005;

(b) whether interim report has been submitted by the Commission in May, 2007; and

(c) if so, the main recommendations of the Commission and by when they would be laid on the Table of the House by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The interim recommendations of the Commission are under consideration.

Categories of SCs enjoying benefits of reservation

t 2924. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many categories of Scheduled Castes are getting the benefits of reservation;

(b) whether Balmiki, Mehtar and Bhangi categories are also getting these benefits;

(c) the details and the number of persons belonging to these categories who have been extended the benefits of reservation during the last three years;

(d) the reasons for which people of these categories are considered untouchable even after sixty years of independence;

(e) how many such cases have come to Government's notice during the last three years; and

(f) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Scheduled Castes have been listed in the Presidential Orders made under Article 341(1) of the Constitution of India and amended from time to time by Acts of Parliament under Article 341(2) of the Constitution. All such castes, which have been specified as Scheduled Castes in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders as amended from time to time are, thus entitled, for such benefits as are admissible to them.

(d) Article 17 of the Constitution of India has abolished 'untouchability' and forbidden its practice in any form and the enforcement of any disability arising out of 'untouchability' is an offence punishable in accordance with the law.

(e) and (f) The year wise number of cases registered under the Protection of Civil Rights

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.