

[15th May, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Filling the backlog of SC/ST vacancies

5274. SHRI VEN DHAMMA VIRIYO:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended to fill the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by her Ministry and results achieved;

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in affirmative the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on 1st January, 1993 and 29th August, 1997 in Class I, II, III and IV category under her Ministry and its autonomous/statutory/attached offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Funds for development of SCs/STs

5275. SHRI VEN DHAMMA VIRIYO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SC & ST Parliamentarians in the memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister on 17th December, 1996, 1st September, 1997 and 23rd July, 1998 have demanded allocation of funds for development of SCs/STs proportionate to their population;

(b) if so, the action taken for providing funds proportionate to the population of SCs/STs in the Ninth Plan by her Ministry as the nodal administrative Ministry for the development of SCs/STs and the results achieved in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter was referred to the Planning Commission. The Commission, however, did not find favour with the proposal on the ground that "population" alone cannot be taken as the sole criterion for allocation of funds for development of Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

However, the following special programmes have been evolved for encouraging substantial allocation of resources for these Groups:

- i. **Special Central Plan (SCP)** for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for Schedule Tribes, which has been in operation since 1979-80 for supplementing/complementing the Central and the State Budget. In terms of this arrangement, population is the major criterion to assess the quantum of funds under various development sectors both at the Central and the State levels. 13 Central Ministries and 24 States/UTs are successfully implementing these two strategies.
- ii. **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** by Central Government as an additive to SCP and TSP budgets in the State Sector. Population is the major criterion for allocation of funds for this purpose.
- iii. Assistance under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for improving the infrastructural facilities in Tribal Areas.

This Ministry has been allocating more than 60% of its total funds for upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the Ninth Plan despite the fact that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes together consist 24.56% of the total population (as per 1991 census).

Demand for National SCs/STs development authority

5276. SHRI VEN DHAMMA VIRIYO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Parliamentary Forum for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes *vide* representation submitted to the Prime Minister on