

(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

16th December, 1996, 1st September, 1997 and 23rd July, 1998 has demanded creation of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Authority for Centralized formulation of the policy and monitoring all the development schemes and projects for the development of the SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; 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, which did not find favour the proposal on the ground that the setting up National SC/ST Development Authority would delink them from the mainstream of development administration and that this would seriously constrain their effectiveness, besides involving heavy administrative expenditure to make the new arrangement work.

Grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations in some States

5277. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given as grant-in-aid to voluntary organization during the last three years in each State by her Ministry;

(b) the number of organizations working, particularly in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether the utilization certificates have been furnished by the organisations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Details are given in attached Statements -I and II (See below)

(c) and (d) Utilisation certificates for amounts released previously and annual accounts duly audited by the chartered accountants are insisted upon before releasing the subsequent instalments of grant-in-aid to an organization.