

ment of India as far back as 1987. Till today, it has not been included.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I just have to keep repeating this *ad nauseam*, i.e. the procedure for putting them into this list is so complicated that either we simplify the procedure in which case we will have another flood of recommendations or we work out modalities. Till today, the modalities for making somebody SC or ST, putting a group in, have not been worked out. This Ministry has, for the first time, worked out modalities. We are going to the Cabinet. Once we work out the modalities, then everybody will know if they fit into one. If they fit the requirement, it will be notified.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: I want to know one thing from the hon. Minister. A report of the Select Committee on the continuation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order Amendment Bill, 1986, in respect of Assam, was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 12th August, 1997. The Committee recommended certain tribes to be included in the Constitution as Scheduled Tribes. What are those tribes to be included into? Secondly, when would this Bill be brought to give them the status of Scheduled Tribes?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Whether it is Assam or Maharashtra or Andhra Pradesh or any other State, the same answer will apply to all. You may recommend or the State may recommend certain people to be included or a certain group to be included. It requires a Bill to come before the Parliament. I cannot bring a Bill every second week because of one particular community. It has to be done comprehensively. We have to take the Parliament seriously.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: The Select Committee was there and it recommended it.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Yes, there are certain things that are recommended. We are just awaiting

clearance for all the 1400, whether 'yes' or 'no', so that we can bring it forward.

सरदार बलविन्दर सिंह मुंडर: आनरेबुल मिनिस्टर साहब, त्वाडे जरिए मैं आनरेबुल मिनिस्टर से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे देश में गरीबी बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ रही है उसके लिहाज से क्या मिनिस्टर साहब सोचेंगे कि देश के जो वीकर सेक्शन है उनको भी इस लिस्ट में और एड किया जाए और इस 25 परसेंट रिजर्वेशन को और बढ़ा दिया जाए ताकि बाकी अंदर क्लासेज के वीकर सेक्शन भी इसमें आ जाएं और फायदा उठा लें इस स्कीम से?

(SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Actually I have answered this question. As I have said, we would be happy to do it on economic basis. That is not the policy of this Government or any Government that has gone into.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is already twenty minutes. Q. No. 462 now.

अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों की प्रगति दर

* 462. श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामवालिमा:†

श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:

क्या सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय यह बताने की कृपा करेगा कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 24 अप्रैल, 1998 के "दि टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया" में "पैनल डिस्सेटिस्फाइड विद एस०सी०/एस०टी० प्रोग्रेस" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति विकास की दर संतोषजनक नहीं है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है, और भविष्य में इस दर में सुधार हेतु योजना का ब्यौर क्या है?

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मेनका गांधी): (क) टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया के दिनांक 24.4.1998 के नई दिल्ली के संस्करण "पैनल डिस्सेटिस्फाइड विद एस०सी०/एस०टी० प्रोग्रेस" शीर्षक से कोई लेख नहीं है।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

† श्री बलवन्त सिंह मुंडर का निधन 24 अप्रैल 1998 में हुआ।

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: In my Question I have specifically mentioned about the dissatisfaction expressed by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission regarding the overall progress of SCs and STs. I do not use the word 'being misguided', but I would say that the Question has not been deeply and properly addressed. The Ministry knows and the hon. Minister knows that the Commission has said in the latest report presented to the President of India that the National Commission for SCs and STs is not satisfied with the progress of these communities as measured by it and also in relation to other communities. So, I again want to know from the Minister whether she is aware of the fact that the Commission is not satisfied; if it has been satisfied, on what grounds it has been satisfied; I repeat, whether the SC/ST Commission has been satisfied or not?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I do not know about the level of satisfaction of the Commission. I must say that none of us could be satisfied until we reach a hundred per cent literacy level or a hundred per cent employment level. It really depends on what level of satisfaction you allow yourself. If you are going to get percentages, we have made progress. I myself would not be satisfied. But, the point is there is no denying the fact that we have made progress. If you like, I can read out some of the figures to the hon. Member. If we look at the indicators of progress of Scheduled Castes, in 1931, which is very long back, the rate of literacy was 1.90 per cent. In 1991, it was 37.41 per cent. No census has been done after 1991. So, I presume that is higher. If we look at the decrease in the percentage of people of the Scheduled Castes below the poverty line, in 1977-78, it was 64.64 per cent and in 1992-93 the rural decrease was 48.11 per cent and the urban decrease was 48.48 per cent. So, there has been a certain amount of decrease. As far as the increase in intake of the Scheduled Castes in the services of the Government

of India is concerned, in 1957 it was 0.71 per cent in Group 'A' and now it is 15.16 per cent. In Group 'B' it was 2.01 per cent and now it is 12.62 per cent. In Class 'C', it was 7.03 per cent and now it is 16.15 per cent. In Class 'D' it was 22.10 per cent which has now fallen, I say frankly, to 21.26 per cent. Now, if we take the intake of the Scheduled Castes in the nationalised and the public sector banks, again officers have gone up to 10.24 per cent and clerks are 14.45 per cent ... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members there, please do not talk. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: The sub-staff is 23.30 per cent. There is a total average of 15 per cent. Now, if we look at the Scheduled Tribes, we come to exactly the same figures. In 1951, their population was 5.3 per cent and in 1991 it was 8.08 per cent. Now, let us look at the literacy. In 1961, it was 8.54 per cent and in 1991, it was 29.60 per cent. If we look at the cultivators, they have gone up to 54 per cent. The agricultural labour has gone up to 32 per cent and the household industry has gone up to 1.04 per cent. Now the percentage below the poverty line has fallen from 68 per cent to 49 per cent. We can carry on bandying these figures about. But, since the question was one of satisfaction and not one of whether it is factual, I repeat that these are not the figures we can be satisfied with.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, I am thankful to the Minister for quoting a lot of figures to maintain and establish her view-point. My point was regarding the Report of the SC & ST Commission presented to the President. Here the figures differ from those given by the Commission. For instance, the hon. Minister referred to the cultivators. In 1961 in the area of cultivation, there were 38 per cent SCs who were cultivators, owning their own land — small holdings. But in 1981 that had fallen to 28 per cent. It means more people have lost their land holdings and

have become agricultural workers or labourers. Similarly, in the area of services in the Union Government the proportion of SCs and STs differs from the figures given in the Report of the Commission. For instance, in Class I, they are only ten per cent, in Class II they are only thirteen per cent, in Class III they are 16 per cent and in Class IV they are 21 per cent, excluding the sweepers. Similarly, Sir, the proportion gets worsened in particular categories. For instance, 90 per cent of the teachers in the social sciences faculty come from upper castes, non-SCs, non-STs and non-OBCs. What I mean is that there is always an under-current and an over-current dissatisfaction even in the case of empanelment of IAS, IPS, Joint Secretary and above levels. So, that is the point I was making. I wanted to know from the hon. Minister as to what measures can be taken or what the Ministry wants to take, at least, to satisfy those who are directly hit by policies or policies of discrimination or bias attitude towards SC/ST employees or people working in the other areas of life.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, regarding the first thing i.e., fall from 28% in 1981 and 20% to 25% in 1991, we talk about the percentage of people who own land, I cannot give any reason. Perhaps, there are different things. Perhaps, when they own land, they own either one bigha or half-a-bigha of land, and were not able to sustain themselves on it. So, they sold it. Perhaps, a larger number of them have been removed for what you called developmental projects like dams, etc. So, if they sold their land, there is really no detailed study to say that they sold willingly or they forcibly sold it. So, I do not think that we can come to any conclusion when we said that it has fallen from 28% to 25%.

Secondly, as far as I can see, there is no particular bias or discrimination. In fact, there are a huge number of incentives to allow them to go ahead but the level of literacy is raising slowly, very

slowly not just in the SC/ST but amongst other men and women as well. For instance, I know this is a gratuitous information, in my constituency only 13% women are educated. Now, shall we call this a bias or discrimination? We could very well do so. Now, regarding increase in their literacy or increase...

SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister is giving a long answer.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: If you ask a long question, you will get a long answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Surjewala, the problem is, the former Minister of Welfare who knows everything is asking the present Minister of Welfare. Both of them know the details.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Sir, he used to be much longer in his replies.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I presume, you do not want an answer.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, what is this? An hon. Member asked a Question and the hon. Minister has to reply to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I am giving the answer.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, first, the hon. Minister has said that I cannot repeat *ad nauseam*; then she said, "I presume, you want an answer." This attitude of the hon. Minister is very...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, please, let her answer.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I am giving the answer. The answers are coming to you in statistical form and that will take a long time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you finished?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: No, Sir, I wanted to say that the former

minister has asked as to what we are doing in regard to...

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir, that may be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, actually, it is a newspaper item and it has actually taken whatever figures suited it. They have not actually taken the figures in their totality. The former Minister has specifically asked as to what we are going to do to increase the availability for I.F.S., I.A.S. and other Government jobs. Well, we have opened a series of tutorial centres and the Government is funding them to coach them specially for Government services.

प्रो० रामगोपाल यादव: श्रीमन् जहाँ तक अनुसूचित-जाति और जनजाति के विकास का प्रश्न है, इस में दो ग्य नहीं हो सकती कि संविधान द्वारा प्रदत्त तमाम संरक्षणों के बावजूद इन की निरंतर उपेक्षा जारी है। यहाँ तक कि क्लास-1 से लेकर निचली सेवाओं तक कई बार उन के पदों को यह कहकर नहीं भरा जाता है कि योग्य कैंडिडेट नहीं आ पाते और इसलिए जो भर्ती क्लास-1 में होनी चाहिए थी, आज भी वह पूरी नहीं हो पा रही है। सभापति जी, दो-तीन साल पहले उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने, जब मुलायम सिंह जी मुख्य मंत्री थे, यह कानून बनाया था कि अनुसूचित-जाति और जनजाति की नौकरियों का कोटा भरने में अगर कोई अधिकारी लापरवाही करेगा तो उस को दंडित कर जेल भेज दिया जाएगा। इसके लिए 6 महीने की जेल का प्रोवीजन किया गया था। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूँगा कि अगर इस तरह के मामले प्रकाश में लाए जाते हैं कि अभी तक यह कोटे पूरे नहीं हो पा रहे हैं, इन लोगों को नौकरियाँ नहीं मिल रही हैं, उनकी उपेक्षा की जा रही है, जैसा कि अब तो न्यायपालिका में भी होने लगा है कि अगर इनका कोई जज आ जाएगा सुप्रीम कोर्ट में, तो कहीं वह चीफ जस्टिस न बन जाए इसलिए उसका नाम वहीं कट दिया जाए और जब यह मानसिकता है, तो क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इस तरह का कानून बनाने की यहाँ क्या व्यवस्था करेंगे, जिससे कि अनुसूचित जाति और जनजाति के लोगों का नौकरियों में कोटा पूरा करने से वंचित करने वाले अधिकारी दंडित किए जा सकें?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I do not think that the Government is

bringing forward any such Act. But, it is a good idea. I have not received any specific complaint, and I do not think that, in any case, I am the complaining authority. But if you can bring any specific case where there is a vacancy and nobody is put forward for it or there is an attempt to keep it vacant rather than filling it with an SC/ST candidate, we would be happy to use that as a base to build up.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: उन्होंने यह कानून बनाने के बारे में पूछा था।

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: As such there is no law coming up ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Sir, regarding progress of SCs' in Andhra Pradesh among SCs there is a sub-caste called 'Madiga'. They are economically, culturally and socially backward. That is why the Andhra Pradesh Government recommended categorisation of SCs as 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'; and 'Madigas' were categorised as 'A' with 7 per cent reservation. At the same time the Andhra Pradesh High Court directed the National Commission for SCs and STs to take a decision by the end of this month ... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question relates to the earlier supplementary, and the earlier question was over. It does not arise out of it ... (Interruptions)... It does not arise out of it.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, since it is very important and we have received repeated requests, I will be happy to answer it. The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and a number of delegations, including the Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh ... (Interruptions)...

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: सर, आपने तो अनुमति नहीं दी थी इसमें।

श्री सभापति: नहीं यहाँ अनुमति की बात नहीं है। मुझे मालूम नहीं ... (व्यवधान) ... सवाल इम्पेडेंट है। अगर मिनिस्टर जवाब देना चाहती हैं, तो जवाब दे सकती हैं। ... (व्यवधान) ...

But, you should have asked on the earlier one ...*(Interruptions)*... That is right, but what did you do for 15—20 minutes? ...*(Interruptions)*... In this way one question will require one hour ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Sir, this is a burning issue in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Anyway, they have repeatedly asked ...*(Interruptions)*... It is under active consideration and, as I said before, this cannot come up by itself because I have to bring it before the Parliament. Therefore, it will come up when everybody else's case is decided. So, we have referred it to the National Commission for SC/STs, and they have not given any decision on this yet.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र: सभापति जी, प्रश्न के छंद "ख" के संबंध में मैं मंत्री महोदया से जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या यह बात सही है कि केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से अनुसूचित जाति और जनजाति के लिए जो सहायता राशि दी जाती है, उसकी कोई सही मॉनिटरिंग केन्द्रीय स्तर पर नहीं होती है और जिसके कारण से राज्य सरकारें उस धनराशि का समुचित उपयोग नहीं करती हैं? उदाहरण के लिए बिहार में पिछले पांच-छह साल में जो धनराशि ट्राइबल सब-प्लान के लिए और कंपोनेंट प्लान के लिए भारत सरकार की ओर से दी गई है, उसका कोई हिसाब-किताब वहां नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Misra, this does not arise out of this question ...*(Interruptions)*... When Mr. Kaushik was saying, he was right ...*(Interruptions)*... This question does not arise out of the present question.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र: सर, मेरा सवाल इसमें केवल इतना है कि प्रगति क्यों नहीं हुई?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Kaushik was right... No, it does not arise out of it ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Mr. Kaushik. Mr. Kaushik, I hope you will put a proper supplementary.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: श्रीमान् मैं बिल्कुल इसी पर प्रश्न करूँगा, जैसे कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने जवाब

दिया, उसमें उन्होंने बताया कि शैड्यूल कास्ट और शैड्यूल ट्राइबल के लोगों के लिए जो आरक्षण की व्यवस्था है, वह एक बहुत बड़ा पहलू है, एक बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा है इस बात का, कि उनका विकास कैसे हो, लेकिन यह भी एक हकीकत है कि उनमें भी एक ऐसा ब्लास पैदा हो गया है, जो आरक्षण का पूरा फायदा वही उठाकर ले जाता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने विभिन्न प्रदेशों को यह आदेश दिए हैं कि पिछड़े वर्ग के आरक्षण में क्रोमी-लेयर वाला मामला जरूर रखा जाए, उसी प्रकार से आरक्षण का लाभ नीचे तक के लोगों को मिल पाए और केवल चंद लोग ही इसका फायदा न उठा पाएं, ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था करने पर क्या सरकार विचार करेगी?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: While it is easily said that the creamy layer exists and it does exist, it is difficult to identify on the basis of a single petition whether a person is deserving or not. The best thing that we can do to make sure that the creamy layer expands downwards — so that everybody is able to avail of it — is to expand educational services. The Ministry has increased the amount of money. We have put aside several hundred crores of rupees so that we can put more into schools for SC/STs, into book banks, into mobile libraries, into tutorial centres which enable them to get into services.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: सभापति जी, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Neither was your question relevant nor is the reply relevant. We shall take up the next question. Question No. 463, Shri Bangaru Laxman.

Credit Rate under DEPB Scheme

*463. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the credit rate under DEPB Scheme was revised, recently, for dyed and printed fabric/saree made from polyester yarn and fabric/saree made from mixed Man-made Filament Yarn/Spun Yarn;

(b) if so, the details thereof;