

galore in the Board and Board being virtually hijacked by such corrupt employees. In fact, strict vigilance is being kept on the corrupt employees of the Board and stringent action is taken by imposing major and minor penalties on them after due inquiry. Already twelve (12) employees of the Board have been dismissed, six (6) others have been suspended and inquiries/action is in progress/contemplated against another twenty-six (26) employees for indulging in corruption and malpractices.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Only two cases of non-observance of discipline and Conduct Rules by an employee of the Board have come to the notice of this Ministry where in one case, the employee had gone to the Press and in the other case, the same employee had submitted a representation about his grievances direct to Minister's office without routing it through proper channel. In both the cases the Ministry has taken action to call for the explanation of the said employee through the Administrator of the Board.

#### **Drug abuse in the Country**

4374. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the drug abuse problem in the country; and

(b) the number of de-addiction centres opened in the North East, State-wise, to control addiction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Different studies and reports indicate that there is rising incidence of drug abuse amongst certain vulnerable sections of the society.

(b) The State-wise number of De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres being run by NGOs in the North East is as under: Assam-1, Manipur-10, Mizoram-4, Nagaland-2. In addition, the State-wise number of Medical Colleges and District Level Hospitals assisted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for running Drug Deaddiction Centres is as under: Assam-6, Manipur-8, Meghalaya-1, Mizoram-3, Nagaland-6, Tripura-1.

#### **Census for Physically Handicapped Persons**

4375. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate census for physically handicapped people has been done in the country;

(b) if so, the details of these figures, State-wise;

(c) whether any special programmes have been outlined for Andhra Pradesh to tackle the problem of rehabilitation of such people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No separate Census for physically handicapped people has been done in the country. However, as per the latest Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991, about 16.15 million persons in the country are suffering from visual, hearing, speech and locomotor disabilities.

(c) and (d) Information has been called for from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Funds for Tribal Schemes in Assam**

4376. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds given by Government to the tribal schemes of Assam, area-wise from 1995-1998;

(b) the details of the districts where the tribals are not covered under the scheme in Assam; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The scheme-wise details of Central Assistance provided to the State Government and the Non-Governmental Organisations functioning in the State of Assam

under different schemes is and as statement  
(See below)

(b) Central Assistance is provided to the  
State Government and the Non-Governmental

Organisations and therefore the assistance is  
not provided district-wise;

(c) Does not arise.

#### Statement

s. No.	Name of the Scheme	Funds released to the State Govt, of Assam		
		1995-96	1996-97 (Rs.	1997-98 in lakhs)
1.	Research & Training	17.77	13.01	23.27
2.	SCA to TSP	1545.19	1524.71	1460.00
3.	First Proviso to Article 275(1)	315.00	315.00	305.00
4.	Second Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution	13.33	13.33	13.33
5.	Boys Hostel for STs	—	16.00	16.00
6.	Girls Hostel for STs	3.03	19.00	16.00
7.	Grants-in-aid Scheme for N.G.O. for tribals	15.10	9.09	75.38
8.	Vacational Training Centre	64.895	23.785	40.00

#### Refusal of SC/ST/OBC Certificate to Tamil Nadu

4377. SHRI R SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that people who have settled in other States for generations are refused SC/ST and OBC certificates since their castes are not included in the lists of the States to which they have migrated;

(b) whether Government are aware that thousands of Tamils living in Mumbai and New Delhi are refused SC/ST/OBC certificates for these very reasons; and

(c) will Government bring a Constitution Amendment to protect the interests of such migrants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c): Under the existing instructions, inter-State SC/ST/OBC migrants are entitled to obtain social status certificates irrespective of whether the caste/tribe/class in question is scheduled or not in relating to the migrated State/UT. Therefore constitutional amendment is not needed in this matter.

#### Filling up of Posts in the Punjab Wakf Board

4378. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Punjab Wakf Board the posts of Regional Officers/Ex. Officer/Sr. Regional Officer were created and filled up in surreptitious and non-transparent manner, in contravention of the wakf Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action taken/being taken to undo the wrongs done and to fix the responsibility and with what results, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Under section 99(2)(b) of the Wakf Act, 1995 all the powers of a Board Vest in an Administrator during the Board's supersession. Since the Punjab Wakf Board is under supersession, all the administrative and financial powers vest in the Administrator of the Board. According to the information furnished by the Punjab Wakf Board, the Administrator created nine (9) posts of Regional Officers out of which six (6) posts were filled up by the Board vide their orders