

sions, intense competition from emerging new manufacturers of alloy and special steels, excess manpower etc.

(d) The measures taken to improve the situation include entering into an agreement by VISL with the Karnataka Electricity Board (KEB) and Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL) for assured supply of 100 million units per annum at an economic tariff rate for 15 years, improvement in product-mix and widening of market base, rationalisation of manpower etc.

**Proposal from State Governments to include more castes in the list of SCs/STs and OBCs**

2442. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:  
SHRI SURENDRA KUMAR  
SINGH:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government and from other State Governments during the last three years and till date to include more castes in the list of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes;

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

(c) by when the Central Government would clear this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE  
SHRI BALWANT SINGH  
RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) In the last three years and till date, recommendations for inclusion in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been received from various State Governments in respect of ten and eighteen communities or groups respectively, of which two relate to the Scheduled Castes list of Madhya Pradesh. Inclusion in the Central lists of OBCs are effected taking into consideration the unanimous recommendations made by the National

Commission for Backward Classes from time to time. So far, three communities have been included in the Central list of Other Backward Classes in relation to Madhya Pradesh, and no further such recommendations of the Commission in this regard are pending with the Government.

(c) Finalisation of the recommendations made by the State Governments for inclusion in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes requires consideration of several complex factors in the light of the criteria followed for scheduling and various consultations, and can be effected only through legislation under Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution. As such, no time frame can be indicated.

**Blocks with high concentration of SC population**

2443. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any block has been identified as having a high concentration of Scheduled Castes population;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise; and

(c) whether any monitoring was conducted in those blocks regarding the implementation of the special component plan during the year 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE  
(SHRI BALWANT SINGH  
RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Information is being collected.