

(a) whether the report and the main recommendations of the high level committee, constituted under the Chairmanship of retired justice Shri Jasraj Chopra to look into the matter of providing reservation to Gujjars in Rajasthan, had been sent to the Central Government;

(b) whether the Central Government had returned these recommendations sent by the Rajasthan Government;

(c) if so, whether the Rajasthan Government has again sent these recommendations to the Central Government;

(d) whether the Central Government thinks that the parameters fixed for declaring a caste as Scheduled Tribes are no more applicable now and there is a need to have a re-look on them; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not taking any action in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has again asked the Rajasthan Government to examine the report of the High Powered Committee and send its specific recommendation with justification in support of its proposal. The State Government has not done so.

(d) and (e) The draft National Tribal Policy prepared by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has addressed this issue.

Quality education to tribal students

2300. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme with the objective of providing quality education to the tribal students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of tribal students benefited from that scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON):

(a) to (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has introduced a new Central Sector Scholarship Scheme of Top Class Education for ST Students from the academic year 2007-08 with the objective of enabling meritorious ST students to pursue degree and post degree level courses in any of the identified institutes. 125 institutes have been approved under the scheme, in both the Government and private sectors covering the field of management, medicine, engineering, law and commercial courses. Each institute has been allocated a maximum of five awards with a ceiling of total 635 scholarships per year. A meritorious ST student who has gained admission in any of these 125 identified institutes shall be eligible for receiving the scholarship under this scheme provided he falls within the *inter-se* seniority of top five meritorious ST students and the total family income of the ST student from all the sources does not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum'.

Under the scheme, eligible ST students are awarded scholarship covering full tuition fee and other non-refundable dues in respect of Government/Government-funded institutions. However, there is a ceiling of Rs.2.00 lakh per annum per student for private sector institutions and Rs.3.72 lakh per annum per student for the private sector flying clubs for Commercial Pilot Training. In addition, the scholarship also provides for (i) living expenses @ Rs. 2200/- per month per student subject to actuals, (ii) books and stationery @ Rs. 3000/- per annum per student and (iii) cost of a latest computer system along with its accessories limited to Rs. 45000/- as one time assistance during the course. Grant is being released to identified institutes and not State-wise. During 2007-08, grant was released to various institutes for disbursement of scholarship to 78 ST students.

Implementation of Forest Rights Act

2301. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Jharkhand Government has asked for clarifications regarding implementation of Forest Right Act, since there are no panchayat in the State; and
- (c) whether Government has provided any clarifications to the Jharkhand Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON):

(a) As per the information available with the Ministry, States have progressed in varying degrees in implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. While States like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal have established the prescribed structures and procedures, have received a large number of claims and some have even started distributing title deeds, other States, because of various reasons, including holding of State and Panchayat elections, are still to catch up. As on 30.11.2008, 15,06,684 (approx) claims have been received and 94,264 titles distributed in various States. State-wise details at statement (See below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Jharkhand, vide their letter dated 29.2.2008, had informed that the State Government was facing problems in constituting the Forest Rights Committees, Sub-Divisional Level Committees and District Level Committee under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and the Rules framed thereunder as Panchayat elections have not been held in the State and there was no Gram Panchayat. The State Government had accordingly sought necessary instructions for implementing the Act in the State. Necessary directions were issued to the State Government on 9.7.2007 that in the absence of Panchayati Raj Institution in the State of Jharkhand, the State Government may arrange meetings of the Gram Sabhas and ensure representation in the prescribed Committees under the Act in consultation with the Department of Panchayati Raj and the Nodal Department of State Government on Forest Rights Act.