

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK.): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to replace the existing Tariff Authority for Major Ports with some authority having a supervisory role.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to corporatise major ports administered under Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 in a phased manner, starting with Jawaharlal Nehru and Haldia ports, to give more autonomy in decision making, quicker response to market conditions, mobilize funds from the market and change the work culture for better facilitation of trade. A Bill amending the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 to enable the Government to convert Port Trusts into companies has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 31.8.2001. Ennore major port, which has been dedicated to nation on 1 st February, 2001, has been set up as a corporate entity in the name and style of 'Ennore Port Limited'.

Inclusion of 'Jats' in OBC Category

861. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

SHRISUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Minister of Coal and Mines has advocated inclusion of 'Jats' in the category of other backward classes in the whole country as has been done in U.P., Rajasthan and Delhi, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated the 29th October, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Such a report has been published in the Hindustan Times dated the 29th October, 2001.

(c) 'Jat' has been included in the Central list of OBCs in Rajasthan (except in Bharatpur and Dhaulpur districts) as per Gazette of India Notification No. 241 dated 27.10.1999.

The community has not been included in the Central lists of OBCs for Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. The 'Jat' caste/community has however, been included in the State lists of OBCs for Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. The subject matter of inclusion of castes/communities in the State lists of OBCs rests with the State Government concerned and not the Union of India.

As regards its inclusion in the Central lists of OBC for all the States, it may be stated that the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has examined the issue and advised the Central Government to include Jaf community in the Central list of OBCs for Rajasthan (except in Bharatpur and Dhaulpur districts) only and not for other States.

New welfare schemes for senior citizens

† 862. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the new welfare schemes formulated for the benefit of senior citizens of the country;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have also issued directions to the courts with regard to early disposal of their cases which are laying pending for a long period; and

(d) if so, the number of the senior citizens likley to be benefited till the end of the year 2001 by it?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The two schemes i.e. (i) Integrated programmes for Older Persons, and (ii) Scheme of Assistance fb Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help, Groups for construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centre for Older Persons, are being implemented throughout the country, since the financial years 1992-93 and 1996-97 respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) the figures of persons benefited are maintained by the NGOs, private institutions and State Governments who implement these programmes.

Welfare schemes for SCs/STs, Minorities Etc. in Maharashtra

863. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare schemes and programmes formulated by Government for the upliftment of SCs/STs/Adivasis/Minorities and other weaker sections of the society in Maharashtra during the last five years;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi: