

Recommendation of Working Group regarding empowerment of STs

873. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group constituted on empowering the Scheduled Tribes has recommended for a comprehensive National Tribal Policy to safeguard the tribal interests, particularly that of primitive groups;

(b) if so, by when Government are going to bring a Bill before Parliament to address to issues raised by the Working Group;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Group has also recommended that the NGOs working in the tribal areas should compulsorily have a tribe as its chief; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on this and the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Working Group, however, was constituted by the Planning Commission to whom the Group has submitted its report for appropriate action.

(c) and (d) The Working Group has recommended that among the NGOs operating in the Tribal Areas, most of the chief functionaries be tribals and not more than 50% of the members be non tribals.

Condition of tribal students' hostels

874. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribal students' hostels are generally without electricity, water and even furniture;

(b) whether Government's funds are diverted by certain States including Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure proper upliftment of the tribal students with funds earmarked by Government?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs releases grants-in-aid for construction of Boys' and Girls' hostels for STs to the extent of 50% of construction cost. The other facilities are provided by the concerned State Government.

(b) So far as schemes of Boys and Girls Hostels for STs are concerned, no such instance has come to the notice of the Ministry.