

(c) to (e) No Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at the present. The modalities in respect of the implementation of these Schemes are worked out by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments of Central Government in consultation with the State Governments. Releases to the states for CSS are made in installments by Administrative Ministries concerned and the details of releases about these schemes are available with them. The criteria for allocation of funds under CSS to individual States is finalized by the Ministry in consultation with the State Governments and Planning Commission. The monitoring is done by the respective administrative Ministries.

#### **Interview dates based on community**

**\*299. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the selected candidates for UPSC Exam are allotted interview dates on the basis of community, that is OC, OBC, SC and ST, and that this segregation has resulted in SC and OBC candidates invariably getting lower marks than the candidates from OC category;

(b) whether this segregation is not against the spirit of Social Justice enshrined in the Constitution of India;

(c) whether the Interview Boards are aware of the communal background of the candidates; and

(d) if so, what is the guarantee that marks awarded would not be from bias?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The segregation is as per the MHA's OM No. 1/1/70-Estt (SCT) dated 31st July, 1970 which provides that the interview for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates should be held on a day or sitting of the Selection Committee other than the day or sitting on which general candidates are to be interviewed so that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates are not judged in comparison with other general candidates and the interviewing authority/board is/are prominently aware of the need for judging the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates by relaxed standards. Thus the Question of getting lower marks by the reserved community candidates due to this segregation does not arise.

(b) The segregation of candidates, in fact, is aimed at reinforcing the spirit of social justice enshrined in the Constitution of India.

(c) and (d) The community status of the reserved category candidates are not divulged before the members of the Interview Board except the Chairman of the Interview Board. Therefore, the question of being biased in awarding marks due to awareness of communal background of candidates by the Board of Interview does not arise.

#### **E-District Project**

**\*300. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts that have been included in Mission Mode Project (MMP); and

(b) the number of districts of Orissa that have been included in pilot implementation of E-District Project and the progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) 35 Districts in 14 States have been included in the e-District Pilot Project.

(b) One District (Ganjam) of Orissa has been included in the implementation of pilot e-District project. This e-District pilot project is being implemented by Orissa Computer Application Centre (OCAC) at a cost of Rs. 323.87 lakhs. The State has floated the RFP (Request for Proposal) and is in the process of selecting the Application Development Agency.

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#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

##### Uranium mining

2106. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has shown keen interest in starting with uranium mining and setting up an N-Power Plant in the near future;

(b) if so, whether, in view of precarious petroleum product position and constant fluctuation of prices of crude oil all over the globe, ONGC's diversion to altogether a different activity will not adversely affect the exploration of crude and gas from our reserves both on-shore and off-shore; and

(c) the estimated reserves of uranium in India and quantity of uranium produced through mining during 2006 and 2007 by Uranium Corporation of India or others engaged in this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has signed a MoU with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) on 11th November, 2008 for sharing of exploration data within India and exploration and exploitation of uranium outside India.

(b) ONGC has clarified that Exploration and Exploitation of uranium will not interfere with their Exploration and Production business.

(c) The total in-situ reserve of uranium ore explored by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) in the country is 1,29,511 te of  $U_3O_8$ . At present uranium is produced only by UCIL and the quantity is not disclosed in public interest.