

(d) No model legal framework has been developed. However, legal/regulatory frameworks adopted by select States/UTs have been circulated to all State Governments for information sharing. These models have been circulated very recently and State Governments would need time to develop their own legal frameworks.

Reservation for tribals and dalits in industries

†*396. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Government had constituted a "Group of Ministers" for obtaining their suggestions with regard to the reservation in industries for tribals and dalits;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Group of Ministers had a discussion on this matter with top representatives of industries; and

(c) if so, the reaction of representatives of industries?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) Representatives of industry are in favour of affirmative action to enhance employability of SC/ST candidates, but not in favour of reservation. A Coordination Committee was set up in October, 2006 to carry forward the dialogue with Industry on affirmative action in the private sector. The Committee held meetings with representatives of Apex Industry Chambers/Associations during 2006-08.

Problem of Sikhs in Afghanistan

*397. SHRI O. T. LEPCHA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the reports of religious persecution of Sikh minorities in Afghanistan;

(b) whether Government has ascertained the fact regarding imposition of pilgrimage tax on the Sikhs in Afghanistan;

(c) whether Government has taken up the issue with the Government of Afghanistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) No incident of complaint of religious persecution of Sikhs in Afghanistan has come to notice.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No pilgrimage tax is levied on the Sikhs in Afghanistan.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Massive sea erosion

*398. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of massive sea erosion that has taken place in various coastal belt areas of the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received proposals from the State Governments to provide funds to check sea erosion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent Government proposes to extend support to State Governments for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sea erosion has been reported in various coastal belt areas of the country by the State Governments. As per the information available from the maritime States, a total of 2017.45 km coastline in the mainland and 132 km in Lakshadweep island are affected by sea erosion. The state-wise details of coast line affected by sea erosion are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Water being a State Subject, anti-sea erosion works are planned and implemented by the respective State Governments as per their own priority. However, in order to provide central assistance during Eleventh plan period, a state sector scheme, 'Flood Management Programme' (FMP) amounting to Rs. 8,000 crore under Central Plan has been approved 'in principle' by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 02.11.2007; under which the central grant is being provided for anti-sea-erosion works, in critical reaches, which have secured all mandatory clearances. Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 3.80 Crore to the State of Karnataka and Rs. 0.85 Crore to Orissa was released in the year 2007-08 under the scheme.

In addition, all maritime States/Union Territories were requested by Central Water Commission to formulate and submit the proposals for protection of vulnerable coastal reaches from sea-erosion in their states, in order to prepare a National Coastal Protection Project (NCP) for external assistance. All the maritime States/Union Territories (except Andaman and Nicobar Islands) submitted the proposals for consideration under NCP. After discussions between the Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB), a Project Preparatory Technical Assistance (PPTA) programme was taken up by ADB with a grant of \$1.0 Million for preparing Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management Project for the States of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra. ADB has further accepted, in principle, for inclusion of other states, under PPTA.