

- (iii) Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship to children of those engaged in unclean occupations, including manual scavengers and those engaged in cleaning of manholes and open drains; and
- (iv) Implementation of Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.

Reservation of OBC

2975. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the States where the Governments are unable to provide reservation for OBC in the State level services;
- (b) the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that OBC people of Tripura about 25 per cent of the population in the State, can not enjoy reservation in the State services because the reservation for SCs and STs has gone upto 48 per cent; and
- (d) whether Government is going to make suitable amendment in the constitution to overcome such extra-ordinary hurdles faced by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Neglect of old citizens

2976. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the old citizens in the country are neglected by their children;
- (b) whether Government proposes to bring any legislation to enforce children to look after their parents compulsorily; and
- (c) if so, the further reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) In view of the concerns pertaining to the care and protection of senior citizens, the Government has already enacted the [Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007]. The Act has to be brought into force through notification as provided under section 1(3) of the Act by individual State Governments. The Act *inter-alia* provides for the maintenance, health care, shelter and protection of life and property of the senior citizens.

Lifting area restriction in matter of extending SC/ST status

2977. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state whether Government could examine the problem of lifting area restriction in the matter of extending Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Castes status to those

whose counterparts are already enjoying the Constitutional facility in their respective home States and thereby redeem them from alleged Constitutional discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): In accordance with the provisions of Article 341 and 342 of the Constitution, specification of a community as a Scheduled Caste and a Scheduled Tribe, respectively, is in relation to a State or Union Territory.

UFO

2978. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Romanian Government has claimed that their planes have been attacked at least four times by UFO and their pilot was injured;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is now an imminent danger of star wars; and
- (d) if so, how far we are prepared for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. ISRO does not have any information on the Romanian Government's claim.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Special incentives to foreign tourists

2979. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has announced a special bonanza for foreign tourists visiting India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government is seriously considering to provide infrastructure status for tourism sector in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) A [Visit India 2009] Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators and State Governments for incentivising travel from overseas to India. The incentives being offered by the stakeholders include complimentary air tickets, hotel rooms, local tours, etc.

(c) and (d) The hotel industry has been requesting for the grant of infrastructure status which entails benefits under the Income Tax Act which is within the purview of the Ministry of Finance. On the request of the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Finance had announced a