

(SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) No Sir. There is no proposal from the United Nations Human Rights Council to recognize caste as a form of discrimination based on descent and birth.

(b) The Government of India cannot comment on the position of other governments.

(c) India has been responding in the appropriate UN fora on questions relating to caste-based discrimination.

Government incentives to employers in private sector

3179. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to provide incentives to employers in the private sector for providing employment to the physically challenged persons is being implemented by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of private employers towards this scheme;

(d) whether Government propose to make it compulsory for private sector to provide employment to physically challenged persons by enacting a law for that purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Scheme of Incentives for employers in the Private Sector for providing employment to persons with disabilities has been launched, w.e.f. 01.04.2008. Under this Scheme, the Government of India provides the employer's contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for 3 years, for employees with disabilities employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs. 25,000/-.

(c) Under the scheme 144 persons have been covered by Employees Provident Fund Organisation and 261 persons have been covered by Employees State Insurance Corporation till 30.09.2009. 49 Factories /Establishments have availed this benefit through Employees State Insurance Corporation and 6 Factories/Establishments have availed the benefit through Employees Provident Fund Organization.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is no provision for compulsory reservation in private companies for persons with disabilities in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

Dr. Ambedkar Medical Help Programme in Tamil Nadu

3180. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing the Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid Scheme to provide medical treatment to the poor Scheduled Caste families for serious ailments of kidney, heart, liver, brain, cancer and other life threatening diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the scheme in Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether Government has given advertisements in Tamil news papers of the State to popularize the scheme in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (D.A.F.), is operating the Dr. Ambedkar Medical Scheme.

The Scheme is meant to provide medical treatment facility to the patients belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities having an annual family income of less than Rs 1,00,000/- and who are suffering from major ailments which need surgery related to kidney, heart, liver, cancer, brain or any other life threatening disease including knee surgery and spinal surgery.

All Central/State Govt. Hospitals, State Govt. Medical Colleges attached Hospitals, Hospitals recognized by State Govt., Hospitals fully funded by either the State Govt. or Central Govt., all CGHS approved Hospitals, State Govt. Hospitals in District Headquarters where surgery treatment facility of the above diseases is available, are covered under the scheme.

75% of the estimated cost of the treatment is admissible, with a maximum ceiling limit of Rs. 1,00,000/- in each case. Admissible medical aid is paid, directly to the Hospital.

(c) During the years, 2008-09 & 2009-10, (upto 30-11-2009) an amount of Rs. 2.50 lakhs & Rs 1 lakh to five and two patients of Tamil Nadu respectively, have been released for their treatment.

(d) No Sir.

(e) The copies of the scheme were sent to the state governments, including Govt. of Tamil Nadu for giving adequate publicity to the scheme.

Proposals for rehabilitation of disabled people in M.P.

†3181. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals have been received from Madhya Pradesh (M.P.) for rehabilitation of disabled people, the names of such proposals;

(b) the total number of proposals received from the State of Madhya Pradesh under the caring and protection project of working children, the name of such proposals; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.