

(c) whether the Centre have received the said report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken by the Centre thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Information was called for.

(c) Yes, Sir. Information has been received.

(d) The State Government has reported that in Prakasam district cotton growers suffered the compounding effect of drought, cyclone and heliothis. The loss of the cotton growers in this district alone is estimated at about Rs. 600 crores. The main points covered under the report briefly consist of—(1) indebtedness, (2) gold loans, (3) pest menace and pesticides, (4) crop insurance, (5) supplementary sources of income, (6) switching over to alternative crops, (7) creation of irrigation facilities, (8) employment generation, and (9) assistance to families of suicide victims.

In order to avoid recurrence of such tragic incidents in future, a number of steps have been taken by the Government of India. They include—evolving cotton varieties which are tolerant to pests through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), introduction of crop diversification programmes, intensification of pest surveillance systems, introduction of Integrated Pest Management, proper education of farmers in better use of pesticides and intensification of quality control measures with regard to pesticides.

Inclusion of Vimukat Jatis in the List of Scheduled Castes

3344. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of including the 'Vimukat Jatis' in the list of Scheduled Castes;

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(b) if so, what is the present position in the matter; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) to (c) Persons belonging to Vimukat Jatis have already been included in the list of Scheduled Castes in the States where they fulfil the criterion i.e. extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability.

The proposal to include them in the list of Scheduled Castes in the States where it has not been done is being considered along with similar other proposals in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Further, amendment in the existing list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.

Issue of SC/ST Certificates

3345. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases in the recent past where Delhi Administration declined to take into account the certificates issued by other States to the parents of those Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes applicants who applied for issue of such certificates in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to save the poor harijans from harassment in obtaining these certificates?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) No specific case has come to the notice of this Ministry. According to the existing instructions, the prescribed authority of a State Government/U.T. Administration may, subject to such enquiries as may be deemed necessary, issue the Scheduled