

Harijans/Adivasis killed in Bihar

3361. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA; Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of Harijans and Adivasis are being killed in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed in the years 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87; and

(c) what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The number of cases of murder of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the years 1983 to 1986 in the State of Bihar is indicated below: -

Year	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1983	71	9
1984	95	10
1985 ...	54	12
1986 (upto March)	13	Nil.

(c) The Government of India have issued comprehensive guidelines from time to time for effectively dealing with atrocities against Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. These guidelines contain precautionary, preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures.

(d) by when Government propose to bring some consistency in the kind of packages permitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Containers of different item in odd quantity

3362. SHRI KISHOR MEHTA; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many items are still allowed to be packed in odd quantities which are basically converted from the British system to Metric system;

(b) whether it is also a fact that mineral water is available in 650 ml. bottles;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take to make available the items in metric system like mineral water, Jams etc. in the containers of easy multiple; and

(c) and (d) The pack sizes permitted under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 are in metric system and there is an element of consistency in them. However, these are reviewed from time to time in the light of the suggestions received from the States/Union Territories, voluntary consumer organisations and other concerned interests.

Damage notices by DDA to refugees of Ahata Kidara, Sadar Bazar, Delhi

3363. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Development Authority have issued notices for damages to the refugees of

Ahata Kidara, Sadar Bazar, Delhi treating them at par with non-refugees during this year;

whether it is also a fact that some MPs also brought such facts to his notice during the last three months; and

if so, what are the details of such complaints and action proposed to be taken to give relief to these refugees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Some representations have been received through MPs alleging assessment of incorrect damages but DDA has denied that assessment of damages in respect of the refugees of Ahata Kidara, Sadar Bazar, Delhi, who are covered by Gadgil Assurance, has been done' in-correctly treating them at par with refugees. Assessment of damages the nature of quasi-judicial proceedings under the public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act and the parties can go in appeal to Session Court in case they feel aggrieved.

Atrocities on Harijans in Uttar Pradesh

3364. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WEL-FARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware about the recent atrocities committed on Harijans in village Abhaypur near Murad Nagar of district Meerut (U.P.);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c)

The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in the number of marginal farmers and agricultural labourers

3365. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a.) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the number of marginal farmers and agricultural labourers in the country during the last 3 years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, and

(c) what steps have been taken to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER- OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Statistics on the number of marginal farmers and agricultural labourers in the country during the last 3 years is not available. However, the Ave yearly agricultural census of operational holdings and decennial population census do indicate an increase.

(b) The possible reasons for increase in the above two categories could, among others, be attributed to fragmentation of holdings due to increase in population and partition in the family, acquisition of land particularly for major projects, poverty, inadequate allotment of land under land distribution programmes to the landless poor etc.

(c) While steps taken to check the growth of population may also have the effect of restricting the extent of fragmentation of holdings, various poverty alleviation programmes including distribution of land to landless rural poor are being executed with a view to ameliorate the economic conditions of marginal farmers and agricultural labourers.