

(b) and (c) The Government provides assistance for residential schools for Scheduled Castes, on X receipt of proposals duly recommended by State Government Grant-in Aid Committees, subject to their conformity to the norms of the Scheme and availability of funds.

As regards Scheduled Tribes, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has issued revised guidelines on 14.12.2009, requesting the State Governments to submit the proposal for setting up additional EMRS. The Scheme of Ashram Schools is need based and demand driven and funds are released to States/Union Territories, on the basis of complete proposals, subject to availability of funds.

Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007

842. SHRI R.C SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States are not implementing the Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

(b) whether it is also a fact that many States have not yet formulated rules, appointed maintenance officer, setting up of maintenance tribunal, etc;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the matter in which the Ministry would ensure that the above Act is implemented in its true spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (d) The maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was enacted in December 2007.

The Act has to be brought into force by the individual State Governments and UTs. States and Union Territories which have brought the Act into fore are required, under the Act, to frame Rules, appoint Maintenance Officers and to constitute Maintenance Tribunals and Appellate Tribunals for effective implementation of the Act.

The Ministry is continuously pursuing the matter with the States and UTs. In addition. The National Council for Older Persons constituted in the Ministry reviews the progress of implementation of the Act in various States from time to time.

The issues of bringing the Act into force and taking necessary steps for effective implementation of the Act were also taken up with States and UTs in the Welfare Ministers/Secretaries Conference.

As a result, so far, 22 States and all the Union Territories have notified the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. (The Act does not extend to the State of Jammu and Kashmir).

Out of the 22 states and 7 UTs that have notified the Act, so far, 13 States and 2 UTs have constituted Maintenance Tribunals. 9 states and 1 UT have framed the Rules under the Act and 11 States and 1 UT have appointed Maintenance Officers.