

Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa, Daman and Diu and Pondicherry on the basis that persons belonging to this community in these States/U.Ts do not fulfil the criterion laid down for the purpose i.e. "Extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability".

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The position of a community in the matter of fulfilling the criterion may vary from area to area or State to State, Vannans are subjected to the practice of untouchability in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Trinulveli district of Tamil Nadu. In other parts of the State the members of this community do not fulfil the relevant criterion and, therefore, have not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes.

Amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes require legislation by Parliament. The issue regarding the above community as well as many other such suggestions and recommendations in respect of all the States/Union territories are being duly considered in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in consultation with the concerned State Governments including that of Tamil Nadu and with the Registrar General of India.

#### Closing down of Offices in Kerala

2955. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to close down the offices of Kerala Fisheries Corporation and Kerala Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultancy Ltd. in Kerala; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Bills and Ordinances relating to Kerala

2956. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the reasons for delay in conveying the assent of the President of India and approval of Government of India to the Kerala Casual Temporary and Badli Workers (Wages) Bill, 1977 and to the draft ordinance forwarded by the Kerala Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH):

The Bill has major financial implications, likely to have repercussions on Central Government Establishments/Undertakings and involves policy issues. It is still under consideration.

#### Kerala Government's proposal for Elimination of Scavenging

2957. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala have submitted a scheme to Government of India for the elimination of scavenging in Kerala for approval and financial assistance from the Central Government;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Central Government have decided to render all possible help to Kerala Government for elimination of scavenging in that State.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of Kerala have proposed elimination of scavenging in the entire State and relieving