

(c) and (d) At present, six State Governments/UT administrations have reported to be fully making payment of this scholarship through Post-offices/Bank accounts. The Ministry is pursuing the matter with other States/UT administrations on regular basis to ensure that system of scholarship disbursement through Post offices/ Bank accounts is adopted throughout the country.

Employment for physically handicapped

2808. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Courts had to come to the rescue of physically handicapped persons to get their appointment in Government services;

(b) if so, whether Government took a note of such cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government had issued any guidelines to strictly follow rules relating to employment for physically handicapped persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) From time to time directions are issued by the Courts regarding compliance with the provisions for the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 pertaining to employment to persons with disabilities as stipulated in Section 33 of the above Act.

(d) The Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) has issued necessary instructions to Ministries/Departments etc. *vide* Office Memoranda No. 36035/3/2004-Estt. (Res.) dated 29.12.2005, 36035/8/2003-Estt. (Res.) dated 26.04.2006, and 36038/2/2008-Estt. (Res.) dated 15.01.12.2010 to follow the guidelines on reservation for persons with disabilities.

National Association for Older Persons

2809. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Eleventh Plan, Government has to set up a National Association for Older Persons;

- (b) if so, the steps that have been taken in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) The 11th Five Year Plan document mentions setting up of a National Association for Older Person as stated in the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP).

Presently, a National Council for Older Persons is constituted with the basic objectives to advise the Government on policies and programmes for older persons, provide feedback to the Government on the implementation of NPOP; advocate interests of older persons, represent the collective opinion of older persons to the Government etc.

Moreover with a view to facilitate the formation of Senior Citizens Associations, at the State and District levels, the revised scheme of Integrated Programme of Older Persons effective from 1.4.2008, has a provision for providing financial assistance to Vridha Sanghas/Senior Citizen Associations for a maximum period of five years within which they are expected to become self sufficient through contributions and donations.

Committee for Dalit Affairs

2810. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set up any high level Committee of Ministers or GoMS on Dalit Affairs during the last 5 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations received and implemented; and
- (c) if not, by when such a Committee will be set up by the Prime Minister in the remaining Eleventh Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a Committee of Ministers on Dalit Affairs was constituted in February, 2005, which submitted a report in June, 2008. Recommendations in the Report pertained to (i) Land, Common Property Resources and Housing, (ii) Education and Skill