

16e, have now been opened. Two additional tea gardens have also been processed under section 16e in Kerala, and lately, we are proceeding on 5 more tea gardens out of West Bengal. But there is a case going on there. Therefore, we will have to seek leave of the court before we proceed with section 16e. So, out of the remaining 12, 7 have already been processed under section 16e, and 2 have been reopened, which leaves only the balance 3 that are there.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, I am coming to the issue of small growers of tea gardens. What happened to the baseline Survey that has been made by the State Government and various agencies for small growers in Assam and it is also conducted by the State Government? Secondly, the quality of tea is not maintained so far. So, whether the Government is taking any action in this regard. The Supreme Court has directed that the wages and bonus should be given to the labourers of the sick tea gardens. So, I want a specific reply from the hon. Minister on these two points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please reply to one.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Thank you, Sir. Sir, he has raised two very pertinent issues. I forgot to answer one point under the earlier question. I may seek your leave to be able to answer that. It is with regard to ICDS and MNREGA. Both the State Governments of Kerala and of West Bengal are today implementing both those schemes at the State level for these closed tea gardens today. So, I would like to mention that to the hon. Member. With regard to the issue of small growers that he raised, it is a very, very pertinent and a very, very good question. I am pleased to state that the Assam State Government with the support of the Central Government today conducted a survey of all small growers in Assam. We have today set up a small growers' cell. I am pleased to state also that we have received the approval from the Ministry of Finance for 8 posts to be set up in the small growers' cell. We have also recommended that 8 posts are not enough. We must create close to about 107 posts. The interests of the small growers are extremely important to us and we will make sure that the interests of 68000 small growers of Assam are always taken care of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Revival scheme for Weavers' Cooperative Societies in Orissa

*407. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa has submitted a revival scheme for 484 Weavers' Cooperative Societies to NABARD as well as revival of 94 non-viable Societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage of consideration of the proposal and by when the revival packages are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIDAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) In order to look into the problems of credit availability, debt overhang, recapitalization etc. of Handloom Cooperatives and to work out a detailed strategy and an implementable action plan, a High Level Committee was constituted on 22.6.2006 under the Chairmanship of Managing Director, National Agricultural Bank for Rural Development (NABARD) by the Ministry of Textiles. The Committee, in their report, have recommended consideration of a financial package including recapitalization of Balance Sheets of Cooperative Societies and financing the credit needs of Handloom Weavers/Societies. The financial package recommended in the report of the High Level Committee also included, in its purview, 484 Weavers' Cooperative Societies which are considered to be viable and potentially viable societies in the State of Orissa. No non-viable society of any State is covered in the report.

(c) The recommendation of the High Level Committee were initially forwarded to the Ministry of Finance in the year 2007. Taking into the account the various observations/suggestions of the Ministry of Finance, received from time to time, the proposal of financial package, last recast by the Ministry of Textiles, stands submitted to the Ministry of Finance in July, 2010 for consideration.

Caste-based census in Census 2011

*408. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a final decision on caste-based census in Census 2011, which is already going on;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if caste criteria is not included in Census 2011, in what manner Government proposes to estimate the caste population data; and

(d) whether recent judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court on quota in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka will not be violated, if caste criteria is not included in Census 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) No Sir. The final decision on the conduct of caste-based census in Census 2011 has not been taken. The matter is under consideration of the Union Cabinet. The Union Cabinet has desired that "the matter might in the first instance be considered by the Group of Ministers (GoM)". The GoM under the Chairmanship of Union Finance Minister met three times on 1st July, 11th August and 19th August, 2010. The recommendations of the GoM will be placed before the Union Cabinet for a final decision.