

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), Shri Buta Singh, former Chairperson National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) was paid a sum of Rs. 6,18,935/- and Rs. 6,21,137/- (including attendant) as salary and travel allowance respectively during the period from May, 2009 to May, 2010. Shri Mahendra Boudh, former Member of the Commission was paid a sum of Rs. 18,01,665/- and Rs. 6,11,323/- as salary and travel allowance respectively during the period from December, 2008 to May, 2010. The expenditure towards salary and travel allowance of both the above functionaries was booked under Major Head 2225 Minor Head 01.00.01 for salary and 01.00.11 for travel allowance. The former Chairman and Members of the Commission were paid salary and allowances as per Rule 6 of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Members (Conditions of Service and Tenure) Rules, 2004.

Dalit people among the Muslims and Christians

‡3296. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the dalit people have been categorized among Muslims and Christians;
- (b) whether any survey had been conducted ever in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) Scheduled Castes have been specified in six Presidential Orders, in respect of various States/Union Territories. These Orders, *inter-alia*, contain a clause that "no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu, the Sikh or the Buddhist religion shall be deemed to be a Member of a Scheduled Caste".

Grant-in-aid to S&T Laboratories

3297. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state whether Government reduces grant-in-aid to Science and Technology Laboratories to encourage self sufficiency by earning through patent and educational and Training institution under the Laboratories and Research units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): No, Sir. Government has progressively enhanced budgetary support to Science and Technology Institutes/Laboratories.

Dyslexic children

3298. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of dyslexic children in the country;

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the special centres/educational institutions that have separate facilities or enabling infrastructure for such students/children;

(c) the States which have not implemented Disabilities Act, 1995; and

(d) whether Government considers/includes dyslexia within the definition of 'mental illness' or 'mental retardation', the terms used in the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Authentic information in this regard is not available.

(b) Ministry does not provide assistance to projects for special centres or educational institutions for dyslexic children as dyslexia is not presently included as a disability under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(c) All States are implementing the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 except the State of Jammu and Kashmir, where the Jammu and Kashmir Persons with Disabilities Act, 1998 has been implemented.

(d) No, Sir.

Trend among students to take drugs

3299. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a trend among the students to take drugs, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the drug addict students in country, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by Government to create awareness among students not to take drugs, the details and the results thereof; and

(d) whether Government can consider the policy/suggestion to give some additional marks to students in their internal assessment, who are non-addicts; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) There is no authentic data available in this regard.

(c) Government has taken the following steps to create awareness in society including among the students about the ill-effects of drug abuse:—

(i) Under the Scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse, financial assistance is provided to Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for organizing Awareness-cum-De-addiction Camps.

(ii) "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" is observed on 26th June each year. Workshop on awareness and demand reduction activities, in