

Eradication of untouchability in the country

316. SHRI PANDURANG DHARMAJI JADHAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps the Central Government have so far taken to eradicate untouchability in the country;

(b) what are the schemes which are being implemented in the country for eradication of untouchability;

(c) whether there is any State in which untouchability in any form has been eradicated; and

(d) what machinery Government are employing at present to eradicate completely untouchability in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL):

(a) to (d) A detailed report was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 20th and 21st September, 1978 respectively containing the measures taken by the Central Government and the State Governments for the abolition of untouchability and for the implementation of the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 for the period ending 31st December, 1977. This is a mandatory report to be laid on the Table of each House of Parliament by the Central Government every year under Section 15A(4) of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.

The material for the said report for the period ending 31st December, 1978 is being collected from the State Governments and the report in this regard will be placed on the Table of both Houses of Parliament, as soon as possible.

A comprehensive Action Plan for the eradication of untouchability is

also being finalised in consultation with the State Governments and the concerned Central Ministries.

Marriages between Scheduled Castes and Caste Hindus for eradication of untouchability in the country

317. SHRI PANDURANG DHARMAJI JADHAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to arrange marriages between the Scheduled Castes and Caste Hindus in order to eradicating untouchability in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (c) The Working Group which was set up by the Government of India in December, 1977 for the formulation of strategy and programme priorities for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes during the Medium Term Plan, 1978—83, in its report submitted in August, 1978 has, among other things, expressed the view that the policy of reservation should reflect the perspective towards a casteless society and that therefore certain facilities in employment should be given to those who inter-marry, one of the spouses being a member of a Scheduled Caste, and to their children. For this purpose, the Working Group recommended that:—

(i) The children of marriages where one of the spouses belongs to a Scheduled Caste should be entitled to the same benefits of reservation as provided for the Scheduled Castes;

(ii) Where one of the spouses of a marriage belongs to a Scheduled Caste, each spouse may be given the

highest priority in employment in the quota/category to which he/she will be ordinarily entitled so long as there is no separation or divorce.

The Government of India is considering these recommendations of the Working Group.

Assistance to Harijans/Adivasis in setting up industries

318. SHRI PANDURANG DHARMAJI JADHAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any Central Government schemes to provide financial and other assistance to educated unemployed Harijans/Adivasis for setting up industries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is a Central scheme for entrepreneurial development amongst weaker sections of the community covering Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, rural women war widows, defence personnel and residents of tribal and hilly areas. The details of the scheme are given in the statement enclosed.

In addition a large percentage of the benefits under the various programmes undertaken in the Handlooms, Khadi and Village industries, Sericulture and Coir industries are aimed at reaching the weaker sections of society including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

Statement

Entrepreneurial Development amongst Weaker Sections of the Community

This programme is particularly meant for weaker sections of community like Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, rural Women, War Widows, Defence personnel, residents of tribal and hilly areas. These courses will be mainly meant for creating self-employment and these entrepreneurs will normally employ many workers.

The course content will be training in field of activity they wish to take up, elementary knowledge of costing and selling, assistance programme of concerned developmental agencies which will be helping them and such other matters which may be necessary for this section of community.

The duration of course will be two months and a stipend of Rs. 100/- per month will be paid to each participant. These courses will be conducted in rural and backward areas only.

Financial implication

(a) Stipend @ Rs 100/- per month for 2 months for 20 participants	Rs. 4,000.00
(b) Technical training expenses in the units or institutions.	Rs. 4,000.00
(c) Miscellaneous expenses	Rs. 4,000.00
	<hr/> Rs. 12,000.00 <hr/>

Manufacture of passenger cars in the public sector

319. SHRI T. ANJIAH:

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 52 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th April, 1979 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the proposal for manufacturing passenger cars in public sector and for making them available at reasonable prices;

(b) if so, what is the progress in this direction; and

(c) whether any tentative estimate has been made by Government for