

†Teaching of Sindhi in Schools

1616. SHRI JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any organisation has requested Government to reduce below ten the minimum number of students for teaching Sindhi language in any school instead of the minimum number of 40 students earlier fixed by Government;

(b) the name of the organisation which had made that request;

(c) the date on which the request was made; and

(d) what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) No such representation has been received in the Ministry of Home Affairs from any organisation.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

†S. C. and S. T. Students sent Abroad for Higher Education

1669. SHRI K. N. DHULAP:

PROF. N. M. KAMBLE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for sending abroad the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities for the higher technical education;

(b) if so, the number of students from various States who have been sent abroad during the last three years;

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to start any such scheme and if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (HRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) to (d) Under the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarships to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Denotified, Nomadic and semi-Nomadic Tribes and other Economically Backward Classes, 28 students from various States have been sent abroad for higher studies during the last three years.

†Facilities to Converted Buddhists

1670. SHRI K. N. DHULAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from various agencies for giving facilities to the newly converted Buddhists in Government services at par with those enjoyed by the Scheduled Castes in the Constitution; and

(b) if so, what decision Government propose to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received in this regard.

(b) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 as amended from time to time lays down that no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu or the Sikh religion shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste. Accordingly, it is not possible to extend to the persons who have become converts to Buddhism, the reservations