

an *ad hoc* increase in pension from, September, 1969;

(b) if so, the consideration on which such *ad hoc* increase was granted;

(c) whether it is a fact that ex-gratia pensioners of the Railway department will not get the benefit of such increase; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): (a) Yes.

(b) So far as pensionary benefits are concerned, the orders issued from time to time by the Ministry of Finance on the civil side are followed *in toto* on Railways. The increase was obviously granted to provide relief to the low paid regular pensioners.

(c) Yes.

(d) *Ad hoc* increase in small pensions is applicable to regular pensions and not to special or *ad hoc* pensions. It was, therefore, decided in consultation with the Ministry of Finance that this increase is not applicable to ex-gratia pensions granted to the Railway servants, who retired prior to 1.4.1957, in addition to their full entitlements under the contributory provident fund system. ✓

†HARIJANS CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY

1040. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS:  
Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some States Harijans who are converted to Christianity have been given all the educational facilities enjoyed by other backward communities and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to extend similar facilities to Christians in the Centrally Administered Areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE

†Transferred from the 18th August, 1970.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO):

(a) Yes.

(b) The question of extending the post-metric scholarships to Harijans converts to religions other than Hinduism and Sikh religion is under consideration. ✓

†INCLUSION OF BILLS OF SAURASHTRA IN  
LIST OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

1634. SHRI DEVDATT KUMAR KIKABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received proposals from the concerned quarters that the Bhils of Saurashtra (Gujarat) be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the detailed thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government of India thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO):

(a) and (b) At present the Bhil community is recognised as a Scheduled Tribe in Gujarat, except in Rajkot Division and Kutch District. The Chairman, Shri Bhil Panchayat, Rajkot, represented that the existing area restriction should be removed. The Gujarat Government is also of this view.

(c) In the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1967, now before the (Lok Sabha, it has been proposed that the Bhil community should be specified as a Scheduled Tribe in respect of the whole of Gujarat State. ✓

†Transferred from the 1st September, 1970.