

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) A National Commission has been constituted *vide* Resolution No. 1-11/2004 MC (D) dated 29th October, 2004. The terms of reference of the Commission require it to suggest criteria for identification of socially and educationally backward sections amongst the religious and linguistic minorities.

**Exchange of vacancies between SC/ST of Orissa**

1874. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of exchange of vacancies between Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes that existed earlier depending on the respective Community's preponderance has since been withdrawn by the State Government of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes Sir. The exchange of vacancies between Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in respect of Class-III and Class-IV posts and services has been withdrawn by Government of Orissa *vide* Orissa Act II of 1992, after introduction of post based reservation.

(b) Government of Orissa have issued a circular in this regard *vide* their letter No. 21429 dated 03-04-2003.

**Formulation of National Tribal Policy**

1875. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:  
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority has formulated a National Tribal Policy;

(b) if so, the details and the status thereof;

(c) whether the above policy provides for better educational/health facilities and poverty eradication schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;