

(e) whether the National Assembly of Tribal and Indigenous People rejected the National draft policy in September, 2004; and

(f) if so, the action taken to redraft it?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has prepared a Draft National Policy for the tribal communities.

(b) to (d) The draft National policy suggests coordinated and concerted efforts for accelerating socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes maintaining their distinct culture, envisages socio-economic empowerment and documentation of rich traditional practices and wisdom enshrined in the tribal culture. The draft policy addresses the problems of poverty, health, sanitation, environmental hygiene, nutrition and displacement in tribal communities by appropriate measures and provides a strong and effective relief and rehabilitation system to ameliorate the miseries of the tribal people. Also the draft policy considers formal education as the key to all-round human development and attempts to address the problem of education among the ST populations with a view to suggest a number of remedial measures to ensure better education among the tribals.

The draft policy has been placed on the Ministry's website www.tribal.nic.in for eliciting suggestions and views of People's representatives, NGOs and Experts etc. prior to finalizing the tribal policy, the Ministry is organizing four zonal seminars and one national seminar at different places to elicit their views/comments. Once such regional seminar has been organized at Shimla on 18-19 Nov., 2004.

(e) and (f) The National Assembly of Tribal and Indigenous People has suggested some modification in the Draft National Policy. An additional Draft National Policy paper for tribal communities has been prepared, and circulated.

National Commission for ST

1876. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK:
SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes had been set up;

(b) if so, whether the Commission had given its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether it would be laid on the Table of the House;

(d) whether Government had accepted recommendation of the Commission; and

(e) the time-frame by when the recommendations of the Commission would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission (SA and ST Commission) was set up initially for a period of one year and was granted extended period of another year up to 16.7.2004. The Commission has submitted its report.

(c) to (e) The report addresses besides historical perspective, the issues related to Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, TSP approach to tribal development, issues related to land, tribal economy, forest and Panchayats. It also deals with policy of reservation, tribal health and medical services. It further deliberates upon issues of tribal women and tribal policies.

The report is in the process of examination.

Welfare for Tribals in Maharashtra

1877. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the Government of Maharashtra for welfare of the Tribals in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many of these proposals are still under Government's consideration and when they were received;

(d) whether Government have drawn any specific plan for the welfare of the Tribals in Maharashtra;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and