

- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the terminal is designed to handle four million standard cargo container a year and the bidding groups require more time to study the details of environment clearance pending with Government; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by Government to finish the project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K VASAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Request for Proposal (RFP) bids were originally due for opening on 09.12.2010. Apprehending that environmental clearance for the project may have financial implications on the project, the bidders have sought extension of the bid due date. The bid due date has been extended up to 18.04.2011. The terminal is designed to handle 4 Million Twenty Feet Equivalent Units (TEUs) of containers per annum.

(f) An Expert Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forests has reconsidered the project and recommended for environmental clearance subject to addressing certain issues suggested by the Committee.

Employment of disabled persons in private sector

420. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps to promote employment of the disabled in the Private Sector;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken in this regard; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Scheme of "**Incentives to Employers in Private Sector for providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)**" has been introduced with effect from 1.4.08 to encourage employers to employ PwDs. As per the Scheme the Government will reimburse the employer's contribution to Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance for a period of 3 years in respect of PwDs, employed on or after 1.04.2008 with a monthly salary up to Rs. 2500/-. Wide publicity has been given to the Scheme. The apex Chambers of Industries have been requested to sensitize their members. The State Governments were requested to ensure wide publicity and close monitoring on the progress of the scheme. 20 Apex Industrial Organizations were also requested for giving widest possible publicity to the Scheme. The Scheme is monitored by a High Level Monitoring Committee. The apex Chambers of Industries are being associated in the meetings of the Committee. Publicity to the scheme is given by Employees Provident Fund Organization, Employees State Insurance Corporation and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(c) Under the scheme, 186 and 446 PwDs have been covered by Employees Provident Fund Organization and Employees State Insurance Corporation respectively, till 31.12.2010.

Rise in atrocities on SCs

421. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for increase in cases of atrocities on SC and in particular rape-cases involving women from weaker section in certain States during recent past; and

(b) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter with Home and other Ministries for preventive and protective steps in the above matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) As per statistics provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, total number of cases relating to offences of atrocities against Scheduled Castes, registered by Police in the country during the calendar years 2007, 2008 and 2009, under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, were 29,825, 33,367 and 33,426, respectively. The reasons for increase can, *inter-alia*, be attributed to improvement in the registration of cases under the Act, owing to steps taken by the concerned State Governments which implement the Act, and increasing awareness amongst the target groups.

As per statistics of the NCRB, for calendar years 2007, 2008 and 2009, registered cases of rape against Scheduled Castes were 1349, 1457 and 1346, respectively.

(b) As per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the subject matter of criminal offences against members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, including those under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, is allocated to Ministry of Home Affairs. That Ministry has been advising the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations from time to time regarding steps that need to be taken to provide adequate protection to SCs and STs. These advisories, *inter-alia*, include sensitization and training of the police personnel/law enforcement agencies, minimizing delays in investigation of cases of atrocities against SCs/STs and improving the quality of investigation, programmes for creating awareness among vulnerable sections of the society and legal recourse open to them and setting up of special courts. The State Governments have also been requested to take appropriate measures aimed at increasing the responsiveness of the law enforcement/law and order machinery. MHA has issued latest advisory on 01.04.2010.

A Committee has been constituted in year 2006, under the Chairpersonship of Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, for effective coordination to devise ways and means to curb offences of untouchability and atrocities against SCs/STs and effective implementation of the Protection of Civil rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Representatives of concerned Central Ministries *viz.*,