

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment allocates funds for educational, economic and social empowerment of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and no separate allocation is made for Most Backward Classes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Complaints of untouchability**

†2593. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the complaints of untouchability against Scheduled Castes are still cropping up in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the number of cases that came to the knowledge of Government during the last three years and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, prescribes punishment for the enforcement of any disability arising from the practice of untouchability. The Act is implemented by the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. As per the data provided by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, during 2007-09, 622 cases were registered under the aforesaid Act. Data for the year 2010 is not available.

The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are addressed from time to time to implement provisions of the Act in letter and spirit and are provided admissible Central assistance for implementation of the Act. A Committee constituted, in 2006, under the Chairpersonship of the Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, has also held seventeen meetings wherein Implementation of the Act in 24 States and 4 Union Territories has been reviewed.

#### **Foreign satellites on rent**

2594. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has decided to rent foreign satellites for a short period to meet the rising demand for transponders which the agency is unable to meet due to low transponder capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ISRO has 175 transponders at present and has taken 86 transponders on lease;

(d) whether there are huge orders from users such as DTH broadcasters, VSAT operators and Disaster Management Service providers and the current demand for transponders from different users is pegged at around 2000 and also expected to raise; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the growing demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A 'Request for Proposal' (RFP) has been initiated to obtain the responses from interested foreign satellite operators for leasing satellite(s) with transponders working in Ku and C-band frequencies.

(c) Yes, Sir. At present Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has 187 transponders from 9 Indian communication satellites including the transponders of G-SAT-12 which was launched successfully on July 15, 2011. Further it has taken 86.5 transponders, on lease basis, from foreign operators through Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of Department of Space (DOS).

(d) The requests from various user segments such as Government users, strategic users, DTH broadcasters, VSAT operators and societal applications are received. The current requested demand from different users is for 221 transponders in C, Extended C and Ku bands. The demand is expected to rise.

(e) In order to meet the growing demand, it has been planned to increase the transponder capacity by building and launching communication satellites, namely, GSAT-9, GSAT-10 and GSAT-11. It is also planned to augment the capacity through short term leasing of transponders from foreign satellites.

#### **Foreign satellites launched from India**

2595. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: