

(d) Major provisions of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) will be incorporated in the proposed Bill.

(e) Does not arise.

Old age social and income security scheme

895. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated old age social and income security scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme finalized alongwith the financial implications and guidelines for implementation; and

(c) the present status of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No scheme, as such, has been formulated. However, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had commissioned, in August, 1998, a project OASIS (an acronym of Old Age Social and Income Security) and nominated an eight member expert committee headed by Dr. S.A. Dave, former Chairman, Unit Trust of India, to examine policy questions connected with old age income security in India and submit its recommendations to the Government. The committee submitted its final report to the Government on 11.01.2000. The report contains recommendations on the schemes and action that Government may take to ensure that every young worker builds up enough savings during his/ her working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during their old age. The recommendations contained in the report have twin focus on further improving existing pension provisions and to devise a fresh pension plan for such workers who are not included in the present pension provisions but are capable of saving modest amounts and converting these savings into old age income security provision.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Representation regarding creation of NSCSTDA

896. SHRI BIRABHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Parliamentary Forum for Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes vide representation submitted to the Prime Minister on 16th December, 1996, 1st September, 1997 and 23rd July, 1998 has demanded creation of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Authority for centralized formulation of the policy and monitoring of all the developmental schemes and projects for the SCs/STs; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was referred to the Planning Commission, which did not find favour the proposal on the ground that the setting up of National SC/ST Development Authority would delink them from the mainstream of development administration and that this would seriously constrain their effectiveness, besides involving heavy administrative expenditure to made the new arrangement work.

Funds under centrally-sponsored schemes to Assam

897. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount granted under the Centrally-sponsored schemes during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, so far, State-wise;

(b) whether fund granted for Assam during this period has been utilized in full; and

(c) if so, the details and the achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The details of the amount released under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01, so far, State-wise are enclosed at Annexure. [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 11]

(b) and (c) A statement indicating funds released under various schemes to Assam their utilization and achievements during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is given below.