

postponed at the request of certain State Government. Next meeting of the Sub-Group has not yet been fixed.

Study reports on development of SCs/STs/OBCs

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

(a) whether being a nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and co-ordination of programmes of development of SCs/STs/OBCs, reports of Commission to investigate into the conditions of Backward classes; National Commission for Safai Karmachairs; and the status report of implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 were duly received and considered; and

(b) if so, whether the Parliament was informed about the finding of such crucial reports concerning vulnerable sections of population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is the nodal Ministry for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, but not for the Scheduled Tribes.

The Second Backward Classes Commission (commonly known as Mandal Commission), constituted under Article 340 ("Appointment of a Commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes") of the Constitution, submitted its Report in 1980 which was laid in Rajya Sabha on 30th April, 1982.

The National Commission for Safai Karmacharis is presently a non-statutory body, whose Reports are not required to be tabled in Parliament.

Annual Reports under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, have been laid in Parliament, upto the year 2008.

ISRO scientist barred from Government job

430. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has barred ISRO Chief and three other senior scientists of ISRO from holding any Government jobs due to their mismanagement in Devas Contract;

(b) whether it is a fact that this decision have been taken on the basis of report of High Power Committee formed on this fallout;

(c) whether it is also a fact that those scientists were not given any chance to submit their reply to the committee and without their views decision have been taken;

(d) whether this action has not established that only those scientists are guilty in this case and no one else is involved;

(e) if so, whether it would not hit the image of such senior scientist, who have done a lot for the country; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The former ISRO chief and three other former senior scientists of ISRO (who were already superannuated from service) have been excluded from re-employment, committee roles or any other important role under the Government and have been divested of any current assignment/consultancy by Government.

(b) This decision has been taken based on the reports of the High Powered Review Committee (HPRC) and the High Level Team (HLT).

(c) No, Sir. The High Level Team had sent detailed letters to all the above four officials in July 2011 seeking clarification for their involvement in various lapses and issues, including those pointed out by High Powered Review Committee. While requesting clarification within 10 days, it was also stated that (i) In case there is a requirement, the officer may also be requested to appear before the HLT and (ii) If the officer desires, the HLT would be willing to give opportunity for personal hearing and giving views regarding the agreement. HLT received written replies from the above four officers. Chairman of the HLT provided opportunity for personal hearing as requested by former Chairman of ISRO. Former Chairman of ISRO followed it up with a letter to Chairman, HLT on August 10, 2011.

(d) The above action is based on the names appearing in the High Level Team reports identifying the responsible officers for various acts of commissions.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Action taken on high level panel report

431. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether is a fact that High Level Panel Report has found serious administrative and procedural lapses in the Antrix-Devas Deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) The High Level Team (High Level Panel) in its report has concluded that there have been serious administrative and procedural lapses and reported