

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA) : (a) and (b) During the year 2008-09, fifteen hostels were sanctioned to State Govt. of Maharashtra. This was under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Hostels for ST girls and boys", being implemented by the Ministry under which grant-in-aid is released to State Governments/UT Administrations and Universities for construction of hostel buildings, based on proposals sent by the States/UTs/Universities according to their requirement of such hostels. Govt. of Maharashtra has not submitted any proposal for construction of hostels after these 15 hostels.

(c) The Ministry has been requesting the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to submit the proposal under the scheme and avail the grant-in-aid for construction of hostels. Based on the proposals received from States/UTs/Universities during the year 2011-12, the entire allocation under the scheme has been released and a total of 104 hostels have been sanctioned to different States/UTs/Universities. The State Govt. of Maharashtra did not come forward to avail the benefits of the scheme after 2008-09 when 15 hostels were sanctioned.

Welfare of Siddi Community

2455. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government for welfare of very small African original minority Siddi community of Gujarat;

(b) whether Government is concerned about declining population of Siddi community; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect ancient art and culture of this community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA) : (a) to (c) As per the information received from M/o Minority Affairs, there are only five communities namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) notified as Minority Communities under Section 2(c) of the National Commission of Minorities Act 1992.

Inclusion of Halakki Vokkalu Community into ST List in Karnataka

2456. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka sent a proposal for inclusion of Halakki Vokkalu community to be included in the list of STs in Karnataka;