

The action plan of the Government to revive the economy and industry in particular, *inter-alia*, includes better access to finance for manufacturing sector, fast tracking of large investment projects in the areas of power, petroleum and gas, roads, coal, etc., strengthening of financial and banking sector, reducing the volatility of exchange rate, etc. Certain specific measures taken by the Government, *inter-alia*, include promoting Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector by way of higher allocation of funds, liberalization of capital market to attract off-shore investment, enhancing investment in the infrastructure sector focusing on Public Private Partnerships and introduction of a new National Manufacturing Policy, etc.

Delegation of power to the Backward Commission

*276. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Backward Commission has no power to give relief to backward people in this country;

(b) whether all powers are vested only in the Scheduled Castes Commission; and

(c) whether Government is considering to delegate power to the Backward Commission?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Under Section 9 of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) is empowered to hear complaints of over inclusion or under-inclusion of any backward class in the Central lists of Backward Classes and tender such advice to the Central Government, as it deems appropriate. While performing its functions under subsection (1) of Section 9 of the Act, the NCBC, has, under Section 10 of the NCBC Act, all the powers of a civil court trying a suit.

(b) In accordance with its mandate laid down in the Clauses (5) and (10) of the Article 338 of the Constitution, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, *inter-alia*, looks into the grievances of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

(c) The NCBC has requested to mandate it to hear complaint(s) of persons belonging OBCs. The request of the NCBC is being examined.