

more projects are already functioning. No discrimination is done in this regard.

Schedule Caste status to Bengali community in Uttaranchal

1313. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI BRINDRA KARAT:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Schedule Caste status was granted to Namasudra, Pod and Majhi Castes within Bengali community who had migrated to Orissa;

(b) if so, the reason why ethnographic details is being sought again for them from Uttaranchal Government by the Registrar General of India;

(c) whether the State Government has furnished the details as sought by RGI; and

(d) if not, the pro-active steps taken by Government to give effect to the proposal to include the above communities as SC, as recommended by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):

(a) As per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, as amended from time to time, only 'Namasudra' has been included in the list of Scheduled Castes in Orissa.

(b) Since in accordance with Article 341(1) of the Constitution, the list of Scheduled Castes are State/Union Territory specific, therefore, the ethnographic information has been sought from Government of Uttaranchal to ascertain whether these communities fulfill the criteria followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Caste.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The appropriate action is taken as per the approved modalities.

National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities

1314. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether term of the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities has been increased; and