

(b) to (d) Committee on Finance and Investment (FIC), a sub-Committee of Central Board of Trustees, is a recommending committee. The recommendations of FIC were placed before Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund (CBT, EPF) in its 200th meeting held on 7th August, 2012. The CBT, EPF approved the following recommendations of FIC for consideration of the Central Government:

- (i) Allowing investment in certificate of deposits of public sector banks for better cash management.
- (ii) Increase the maximum tenure of Terms Deposit Receipt of Public Sector Banks to 5 Years from existing up to 1 Year to enable EPFO to capture higher yields on such investments.

The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Identity cards to beedi workers

†2913. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has ascertained the number of Beedi workers to issue them identity cards;
- (b) if so, the number of such Beedi workers;
- (c) the number of Beedi workers to whom identity cards have been issued by Government; and
- (d) by when identity cards will be issued to all those Beedi workers who have been identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) As per available information, there are about 64 lakh beedi workers in the country.

(c) and (d) About 51 lakh beedi workers have been issued identity cards. Issuance of identity cards is a continuous process. Government's endeavor has been to issue identity cards to all identified beedi workers. However, no time limit has been fixed for this purpose.

Attack on dalit colonies in Tamil Nadu

2914. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent incident of attack on three dalit colonies of Naikkankottai village in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu on November 7, 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the incident; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that in the incident which took place on 07.11.2012, in Natham Colony, Kondampatti, Seangalmedu and Anna Nagar in Krishnapuram: police station limits, the caste Hindus (Vanniars) of surrounding villages attacked, burnt and damaged the houses and property of "Dalits". The indicated reason for the incident was the marriage of a Vannar community girl with a "dalit" boy at Natham colony, about a month back, with which caste Hindus were not happy, and the girl's father allegedly committed suicide on 07.11.2012. Thereafter, the villagers brought the body of the deceased on the Naickankottai main road, staged road picketing and the crowd turned violent.

(c) and (d) The Collector, Dharmapuri District, inspected the affected villages on 08.11.2012, and assessed the loss of goods and property. Some 297 houses had been attacked in the arson, resulting in the loss of valuables, vehicles, electronic goods etc. and villagers rendered homeless. The; Police has registered seven criminal cases, against the accused, including four under the relevant: sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Besides action taken to provide the basic needs such as food, shelter, dresses etc., all the affected families were given Rs. 50,000/- each, as an immediate relief and an amount of Rs. 148.50 lakh, was disbursed from the Chief Minister's Relief fund. The State Government has also sanctioned an amount of about Rs. 163.44 lakh, towards expenditure on food, shelter, alternate dresses, construction of 37 new houses, repair and maintenance of damaged houses.

Updating NRC in Assam

2915. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representations from various