continuation as various personnel of armed forces go scot free after committing sexual violence against women in conflict areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Government action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Justice J.S. Verma Committee in its report recommended the following:-

"The following amendment shall be made to Section 6 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958:

No prosecution, suit or other legal proceeding shall be instituted, except with the previous sanction of the Central Government, against any person in respect of anything done or purported to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by this Act.

Provided that, no sanction shall be required if the person has been accused of committing an offence under Section 354, Section 354A, Section 354B, Section 354C, Section 376(1), Section 376(2), Section 376(3), Section 376A, Section 376B, Section 376C, Section 3760 or Section 376E of the Indian Penal Code, 1860."

(c) Section 6 of the AFSPA gives protection to the armed forces personnel with respect to the acts done or purported to be done in exercise of the powers conferred under the Act. The Act does not mandate requirement of sanction for prosecution of any security personnel who is alleged to have committed an offence/ sexual assault and hence the amendment to section 6 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers), Act, 1958 is not necessary.

**Schemes for welfare of SCs and OBCs**

†*137. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes implemented by Government for welfare of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether percentage of grants provided to Non-Governmental Organisations under various welfare schemes varies;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed for the purchase of items by Non-Governmental Organisations under the head of non-recurring expenditure and the expenditure incurred under these is not reimbursed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the following schemes:-

**I. Welfare of the Scheduled Castes (SCs)**

(i) Post-matric Scholarship for SCs

(ii) Pre-matric Scholarship for Children of those engaged in 'unclean' occupations

(iii) Pre-matric scholarship for class IX and X SC students

(iv) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Scheduled Castes

(v) National Overseas Scholarship for SCs

(vi) Construction of hostels for SC boys and girls

(vii) Free coaching for SCs and OBCs

(viii) Upgradation of Merit of SC Students

(ix) Top class education for Scheduled Castes

(x) Self employment scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers

(xi) Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan

(xii) Assistance to Voluntary Organizations working for SCs

(xiii) Implementation of Protection of Civil Right Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

**Concessional loan from :-**

(i) National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation

(ii) National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation

(iii) State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations

**II. Welfare of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs)**

(i) Pre-matric Scholarship to OBC students

(ii) Post-matric Scholarship to OBC students

(iii) Construction of hostels for OBC boys and girls

(iv) Assistance to Voluntary Organizations working for welfare of OBCs

**Concessional loan from :-**

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation

(b) and (c) Under the Schemes of Assistance to Voluntary Organizations working for welfare of SCs and OBCs, respectively, grant-in-aid to the extent of 75-90% of the approved expenditure on any/all items, enumerated in the Schemes, may be given to the Non-Governmental Organisations. Under the Schemes of Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs and construction of hostels for SC and OBC boys and girls, voluntary organizations are assisted as per norms of the respective Schemes.

The Scheme of Grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations working for the Scheduled Castes is provided for running of Residential and Non-Residential Schools, Hostels, Computer Training Centre, Mobile Dispensary, 10 bedded hospitals, Craft Centre etc. Under Recurring items, Honorarium, Rent for building, Diet charges, Uniforms, Books and Stationery, cooking charges, office charges, excursion, water and electricity charges, medicine, washing charges, games and sports materials etc. are covered. There are schemes also for upgrading the skills of beneficiaries to enable them to start income generating activities, either through self-employment or wage employment.

(d) and (e) Under the respective Schemes of Assistance to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of SCs and OBCs, sanction of Non-Recurring expenditure is considered as per the parameters of various projects enumerated in the Schemes, and in terms of the General Financial Rules. Utilization Certificate is required to

be furnished by the concerned organization, within 12 months of closure of the Financial Year.

**Violence in Goalpara during Panchayat election in Assam**

*138. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of people killed and injured in the violence of Panchayat Election in Assam's Goalpara district;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for the victims' families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) As per the report received from the State Government of Assam, the State Government had established a Rabha - Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC) in 1995 through a State Legislation for socio-economic, educational and cultural advancement of the Rabha tribe. The RHAC being under a State Legislation, continuation of Panchayati Raj institutions in the area remained mandatory under Constitutional provisions. When the Panchayat elections became due, the Rabhas demanded elections to RHAC to be conducted before the Panchayat elections. But the Council constituencies were awaiting delimitation. Considering this and other logistical and law and order issues, the State Election Commission decided to hold the Panchayat elections first in the month of February and the elections to RHAC on 30th April, 2013. Accordingly elections to the Panchayat conducted in a phased manner. Out of the eight districts which went to third phase of the Panchayat elections on 12th of February, 2013, polls passed off peacefully in seven districts. But in Goalpara District, it was disrupted by a large group of miscreants who attacked polling personnel as well as the security forces at many places. A total of 25 security personnel and ten polling personnel were injured. The security forces had to resort to firing to control the violence at six places. This resulted in the death of 14 persons. Other seven persons died due to group clashes.

In order to control the situation Army was deployed in the area. An, additional six companies Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) were provided to the State Government in addition to 43 companies of CAPF deployed in Goalpara District on 12.02.2013. Curfew was clamped in the violence affected area and Army flag