

- (b) if so, whether the policy commits to a “comprehensive review” of its implementation every five years;
- (c) whether Government has made any review of its implementation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government developed and adopted the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities in 2006 which recognizes that Persons with Disabilities are a valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry to coordinate all matters relating to implementation of the Policy. The Policy document also identifies other Ministries such as Ministries of Home Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, Rural Development, Urban Development etc. for implementation of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities. The Central Coordination Committee, with Stakeholder representation, coordinates matters relating to implementation of the National Policy.

The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at Central level and State Commissioners at the State level are the agencies responsible for monitoring implementation of provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and National Policy for Persons with Disabilities.

The Central Government has requested all State Governments and Union Territories to formulate their own State Policy and Persons with Disabilities, keeping in view of the articles and obligations under United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Redressal of grievances of dalit Muslims and Christians

755. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the non-inclusion of dalit

Christians and dalit Muslims in the Scheduled Caste (SC) category amounts to gross injustice and discrimination against them;

(b) the steps being contemplated by Government for the redressal of the genuine grievances of the above-mentioned communities; and

(c) whether Government would consider constitution of a commission to study the social and economic backwardness of dalit Christians and dalit Muslims and suggest ways for their upliftment and empowerment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) A number of writ petitions have been tiled in the Supreme Court, pleading for Scheduled Caste status for converts to Christianity and Islam, who may originally have belonged to castes, which are presently specified as Scheduled Castes. The matter is presently *sub-judice*.

(c) Presently, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Rehabilitation of mentally retarded persons

756. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Ministry for rehabilitation of mentally retarded persons in consultation with Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and State Governments on the fact that, there are large number of mentally retarded persons wandering in railway station and sometime these mentally ill persons are crushed by trains; and

(b) whether Government has conducted any study in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) and (b) As per entry No. 9 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, "Relief of the disabled" figures in the State List. However, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Disability Affairs supplements the efforts of the State Governments through its various schemes/organizations.

The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, a statutory body under the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Residential Care Scheme named