

**Diversity index to measure inequalities**

1339. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a diversity index or an equivalent indicator to measure inequalities in areas like education, employment and housing among minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the criteria it covers and by when this index is likely to be introduced in studies and reports;

(c) whether the diversity gap index, that was proposed in the report of the Expert Group in 2008, is not yet implemented; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government for immediate implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING): (a) to (d) As a follow up of the decision of the Government to implement the Sachar Committee recommendations, an expert group on diversity index was set up on 28th August, 2007 to, *inter-alia*, develop and devise a transparent and acceptable index to measure diversity in the areas of education, government and private employment and housing. The expert group submitted its report on 24th June, 2008 recommending, among other things, a conceptual framework of the diversity index and its construction. The concept of having a diversity index has been subsumed in the proposal for setting up of an Equal Opportunity Commission.

**Implementation of 15 Point Programme**

1340. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the development of minorities during the last three years;

(b) the status of implementation of the Programme in the 90 minority concentrated districts in the country; and