

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 12th February, 2014/23rd Magha, 1935 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Questions. Mr. Prasanta Chatterjee, do you wish ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned till 12.00 hours.

The House then adjourned at six minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at Twelve of the clock,

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

Castes and sub-castes falling under the ambit of social justice

†*301. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of castes and sub-castes falling under the ambit of social justice;
- (b) their population in comparison to the total population of the country;
- (c) the steps taken by Government for their empowerment during the current year; and
- (d) the financial provision made for programmes meant for this population, and to what extent it has been utilized?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) As regards Scheduled Castes, 1206 castes have been notified as Scheduled Castes in relation to various States and Union Territories. The population of the scheduled castes, as per Census 2011, is 20.14 crore approx. representing 16.6% of the country's total population of 121 crore approx. As regards Other Backward Classes (OBCs), the Ministry notifies castes/communities in the Central List of OBCs for different States/UTs on the basis of advice tendered by the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993. A total of 2343 Entries have been made in the Central List of OBCs till 31.1.2014. An 'entry' for this purpose includes castes, its synonyms and sub-castes. The enumeration of castes including OBCs/Backward Classes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has not been done in any of the decadal Census since

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the 1951 Census. However, the population of OBCs as per the Mandal Commission Report of 1990 is 52% and the National Sample Survey Organisation Report, 2004-05 indicates the population as 40% of the total population.

(c) and (d) The Government implements various Schemes for their empowerment through educational development and economic development, besides other schemes *viz.*

- Post matric scholarship for Scheduled Castes
- Pre-matric scholarship for children of those engaged in 'unclean' occupations
- Pre-matric scholarship for SC students studying in classes IX and X
- Upgradation of Merit
- Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana
- Top class education
- Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship
- Free Coaching for SC and OBC Students
- National Overseas Scholarship
- Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan
- Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers
- Assistance to State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations
- National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)
- National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)
- Scheme for Implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955, and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
- Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)
- Assistance to Voluntary Organizations Working for Welfare of SCs
- Pre-matric Scholarship for OBCs
- Post-matric Scholarship for OBCs
- Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls

- Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for Welfare of OBCs
- National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC).

The budget estimate for 2013-14 for Schemes meant for SCs is Rs.4663.00 crore and the actual expenditure as on 31.01.2014 is Rs.2741.23 crore. As regards Schemes for OBCs, the budget estimate for 2013-14 is Rs. 1200.00 crore and the utilization till 07.02.2014 is Rs.838.33 crore.

Letter regarding arrest and release of youths of minority community

*302. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the letter written by the Minister to the Chief Ministers of States regarding arrest and release of youths belonging to minority community;
- (b) why Government wants to bring in religion in the cases of terror and crime; and
- (c) whether such discrimination on the basis of religion is approved by the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) The Home Minister had written a letter on 30th September, 2013 to the Chief Ministers of all the State Governments, requesting them to take the following action, at the earliest:

- (i) All States/UTs should constitute Special Courts in consultation with the High Courts of competent jurisdiction for trial of terror related cases on a day to day basis.
- (ii) All State Governments should appoint Special Public Prosecutors for trial of these terror cases.
- (iii) The terror cases should take precedence over other cases pending trial before such Special Courts.
- (iv) All the Law Enforcing Agencies should be sensitized with regard to communal harmony and social justice while ensuring zero tolerance for terrorism by any person or group irrespective of which community he or they may belong to.