(v) Strengthening preventive measures

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2013, containing the aforesaid amendments in the Act has been introduced in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament, 2013 on 12.12.2013.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal from UP for including castes in list of SC

†2313. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for including Kashyap, Kahar, Kewat, Nishad, Bind, Bhar, Prajapati, Rajbhar, Vatham, Goud, Turaha, Majhi, Mallah, Kumhar, Dhimar and Mahua castes into the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any survey with regard to these castes;

(c) if so, whether these 16 castes have become eligible for inclusion in the list of Schedule Castes considering their socio-economic condition; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Government of Uttar Pradesh *vide* their letter dated 15.02.2013 has proposed inclusion of Kahar, Kashyap, Kewat, Mallah, Nishad, Kumhar, Prajapati, Dheevar, Bind, Bhar, Rajbhar, Dheemar, Batham (not Vatham), Turha, Godiya (not Goud), Manjhi and Machhua (not Mahua) castes in the list of Scheduled Castes.

(b) There is no provision for conducting any survey by the Central Government in the approved Modalities for inclusion of castes as Scheduled Castes.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Proposal of these communities, as per approved Modalities, has been sent to the Registrar General of India for comments.

Assistive technology for differently abled

2314. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes fo set up a National Institute for Universal Design and Assistive Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its salient features and main objectives; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to creat a special directory which will have all the information on Assistive Technology devices and also for productive networking to help differently abled live a better life through use of latest practices and services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The vision of National Institute of Inclusive and Universal Design (NIIUD) will be to prevent discrimination, offer personal independence and provide equal opportunities for people with disabilities by ensuring environmental access through universal design, leading to social inclusion.

Main objectives of the Institute will be:

(i) To initiate, sponsor, conduct and stimulate research to expand environments capacity to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

(ii) To promote inclusive development in villages and in towns for persons with disabilities.

(iii) To direct education conduct training and build awareness about universal design among environmental design professional, government, organizations and institutions of higher learning.

(iv) To document and disseminate latest information about universal design.

(v) To network, cooperate and coordinate with National, Regional or Local Agencies to promote social inclusion through environmental design.