

(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 to 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 create 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.

(c) Proposal for preparation of directory for assistive devices technology for Persons with Disabilities is under consideration.

**Reservation for economically weaker persons**

†2315. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to give reservation to economically weaker persons; and

(b) if so, whether Government will bring an amendment to the Constitution in this regard and if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Central Government had set up a Commission for the Economically Backward Classes. The Commission has submitted its Report to the Government. Recommendations of the Commission are under consideration.

**Cases of atrocities on SCs/STs**

2316. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and State-wise details of cases of atrocities on SCs/STs reported in the country, particularly from Andhra Pradesh, during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that conviction rate is very low in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) As per the data of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, the conviction rate during 2012 in regard to cases under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, in respect of Andhra Pradesh was 8.2%, as against all India conviction rate 23.8% during the year.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.