

up a national fund for the aged and also a National Commission on the lines of National Human Rights Commission to look after their interests, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has made some arrangements for redressal of such grievances of the elderly people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) Four letters of the Age-well Foundation have been received in the Prime Minister Office.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 in December, 2007 which, *inter-alia*, makes maintenance of parents/senior citizens by children/relatives obligatory and justifiable through Tribunals; provides for revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens; medical facilities for senior citizens; and protection of life and property of senior citizens. The Act had to be brought into force by individual State Governments. By now, all States and Union Territories barring Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir have done so. The Act is not applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, while Himachal Pradesh has its own Act for senior citizens. The Planning Commission in its Twelfth Plan document has recommended that efforts be made to set up a National Commission for Senior Citizens to look into their grievances.

Amount spent under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan

2771. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government has taken to ensure that the allocated resources were actually spent under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) by all Central Ministries during the last three years;

(b) the difficulties in spending the allocated resources; and

(c) the action plan the Ministry is visualizing in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) As information received from Planning Commission, guidelines for implementation of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) were issued by the Planning Commission to the Central Ministries/Departments in 2006. Subsequently, based on the recommendations of the Narendra Jadhav Task Force

constituted by Planning Commission *vide* its letter date 15.12.2010, Central Ministries/ Departments have been categorized in 4 categories with varying degree of obligation for earmarking of Plan funds for SCSP from 2011-12.

The Controller General of Accounts had issued instructions for opening of Minor Heads 789-Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes' under Functional, Transactory heads (MHs 3601) and Parking heads (MHs 2252) *vide* their Office Memorandum dated 15.12.2010. For proper implementation of these instructions, Budget Division of the Planning Commission also directed all the Ministries/Departments through Budget Circular to ensure that the provisions are accurately reflected in the concerned Minor Head below the functional major/sub-major heads, wherever necessary, in terms of the instruction under Para 3.8 of the General Directions to the List of Major and Minor Heads of Accounts. The provisions made under these Minor Heads will not be allowed to be Re-appropriated, except to the same Minor heads in other schemes under "Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes" (Code No. 789).

The Strategies for implementing SCSP during 12th Five Year Plan has been detailed in Chapter on "Social Inclusion" of the draft 12th Plan document. Planning Commission has set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Secretary, Planning Commission to examine ways " To effectively implement SCSP/TSP as the essential instrument for accomplishing inclusive growth".

(b) and (c) As per the information furnished by the Planning Commission, it has not received any intimation from Ministries for the difficulties faced in this regard as such.

Shortage of cotton in the country

2772. SHRI N. BALAGANGA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textiles industry has been facing lot of problems in the recent past because of overall global situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the shortage of cotton and yarn, as Government perceives, based on factual data;

(c) whether there is acute shortage of cotton in the country with the result that Government is not able to provide adequate cotton and yarn to the textile industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government to get rid of shortage of cotton and stabilize the production of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No Sir. India is a cotton and yarn surplus country.