

terrain, (ii) low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population, (iii) strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries, (iv) economic and infrastructural backwardness and (v) non-viable nature of State finances.

The request from Government of Odisha was examined with regard to the existing criteria for grant of Special Category Status. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission conveyed to the Chief Minister *vide* letter dated May 7, 2013 that under the existing criteria approved by the National Development Council, Odisha does not qualify for grant of Special Category Status.

Recently, the Chief Minister of Odisha during his meeting with Prime Minister in June, 2014 has again reiterated the request for grant of Special Category Status to Odisha. It was mentioned that Odisha was one of the least developed States with high incidence of poverty and adverse Human Development Indices and recurring floods, cyclones and drought caused further havoc to the State perpetuating poverty and under development. The request of Odisha is under consideration in the context of the NDC criteria.

(b) and (c) All States including Odisha are provided plan assistance under different block grants and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), National Health Mission (NHM), National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Mid Day Meal (MDM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Further, Odisha also gets Special Plan assistance for KBK (undivided Kalahandi, Bolangir, Koraput) districts under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) in addition to the usual assistance for the backward districts.

The release of Central assistance on the plan side for Odisha in 2013-14 was about ₹ 11,112 crore.

Amendments in the Juvenile Justice Act

*534. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Women (NCW) has demanded to make amendment in the Juvenile Justice Act to ensure punishment in rape cases;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NCW has stated that 45 per cent of the registered rape cases were perpetrated by juveniles and hence amendments were necessary; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is of the view that juveniles committing rape should be tried as adults and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government is of the view that heinous offences such as rape committed by children in the age group of 16-18 years should be dealt with stringent punitive as well as reformatory measures which would act as a deterrent for child offenders committing such crimes and also protect the rights of victim to justice.

Special provisions are proposed in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2014 to address heinous offences committed by children above the age of 16 years. If the Juvenile Justice Board, after conducting a preliminary inquiry comes to the conclusion that there is a need for further trial in such cases, the Board has been given the option to transfer the matter to the Children's Court, which is the Court of Session having jurisdiction to try heinous offences.

Personality tests under Civil Services Examination

†*535. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum and the maximum marks given in the personality tests under Civil Services Examination (CSE) conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for the year 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 respectively;

(b) whether UPSC proposes to videograph the personality tests, if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the representation of the Other Backward Classes amongst the members of the UPSC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Sir, so far as candidates recommended are concerned, the maximum and minimum marks awarded in Personality Test in Civil Services (Main) Examination- 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 are as follows:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.