

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the State Government.

(c) No reservation is provided to the STs under the State Constitution. However, political reservation for members of ST community is secured in various institutions of Local Self Governance under different Laws, like J&K Municipal Act, 2000, J&K Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 and J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989. In addition, Section 50 of the State Constitution provides for nomination of 8 members, not more than three of whom shall be persons belonging to any of the socially, economically backward classes in the State to the State Legislative Council. The members of ST community are invariably considered for nomination while filling up the seats through nomination.

#### **Financial assistance to NGOs in West Bengal**

3910. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has a programme under implementation that gives financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working for the welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs);

(b) the details of funds released to NGOs and projects from 2012-13 to 2013-14, for the welfare of OBCs in West Bengal; and

(c) whether a monitoring and evaluation study was undertaken regarding the utilization of the funds released, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes.

(b) The details are as under:

Year	Name of Project	Amount (in ₹ lakh)
2012-13	Type and Shorthand	1.84
	Scooter Motorcycle	1.77
	Repairing Training Centre	
2013-14		Nil

(c) Yes. The details are as under:

- (i) An evaluation study for NGOs was conducted in Manipur and Assam by Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Dispur (Guwahati) which revealed that benefits accrued from the skill development training given by the Voluntary Organizations. It increased employability of the beneficiaries.
- (ii) An evaluation study was also conducted by Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi in 2008 in the case of NGOs in Delhi. This study highlighted the benefits derived from the training programs to the beneficiaries.
- (iii) The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi engaged services of W One Management Systems consulting company India to undertake the study for evaluation and inspection of the beneficiaries for various training programmes. The study revealed a huge increase in the employment status of the beneficiaries.

#### **Change in spending habits by people of rural areas**

3911. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that purchasing power/spending habits of people are increasing in rural areas and towns more than in metro cities across the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the reasons for such changes in the spending habits by the people of rural areas and towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO): (a) Based on its survey on Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) gives estimates of average Household Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (MPCE) for rural and urban areas. As per the results of Household Consumer Expenditure surveys conducted by NSSO in its 66th (July, 2009 - June, 2010) and 68th (July, 2011 - June, 2012) rounds, the average Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure