

Minority status to Seng Khasi Tribes

1515. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Seng Khasi Tribes have been recognised or given minority status in Meghalaya;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is aware of their demand to get minority status, in the absence of which they are not able to receive benefit of Union Government schemes?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA):

(a) and (b) The grant of minority status to Seng Khasi Tribes in Meghalaya is a state subject.

(c) The Government of Meghalaya had forwarded a representation to the Ministry of Minority Affairs for grant of minority status to Seng Khasi Tribes. After examining the representation, the Government of Meghalaya was informed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India that Seng Khasi are tribals predominantly located in Meghalaya but they are not Christians. The Government of Meghalaya was requested to take a decision on the above mentioned representation as per the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. Under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minorities.

Health scheme for minorities

1516. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than half of the General Budget of the Ministry has been spent on scholarship and fellowship programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has launched a health scheme for minorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of total General Budget of this Ministry amounting to ₹ 3511 crores during 2013-14, amount of ₹ 1789.55 crores was spent on Scholarship Schemes