

economy class Basic Fare. The discount is offered to those who have completed 63 years of age on the date of commencement of journey.

- Senior citizens can also avail multi-level fares offered by Air India on each sector for travel on domestic sectors, starting from a low level advance purchase fares which facilitate early selling to the highest one.

Sub-Plan for Scheduled Castes

1358. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the current practice of implementing the Sub-Plan for Scheduled Castes; and
- (b) whether there is any proposal to bring legislation of Sub-Plan for Scheduled Caste (SC) for effective gap filling in the development indices between the members of SC community and the rest of the society and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) The Planning Commission has issued revised guidelines for implementation of SCSP to the Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs, *vide* its O.M. dated 11.02.2014 and 18.06.2014 respectively, for earmarking outlays for SCSP, to *inter-alia* estimate gaps, prioritize development needs of the SCs and orient the Schemes to bridge the gaps. The Schemes designed under SCSP should yield direct and quantifiable benefits to SC individuals, SC household and SC habitations. The funds so earmarked shall be non-divertible.

Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs are advised from time to time to adhere to the guidelines of the Planning Commission for formulation, implementation and monitoring of the SCSP and for optimal utilization of funds. Further, while discussing Annual Plan proposal of States/UTs, the issue is discussed and States/UTs are impressed upon to ensure spending of funds for SCs in the States/UTs. Also, every year in the Union Budget, Statement-21 of the Expenditure Budget, Vol.-I contains detailed information regarding allocation and expenditure made under Scheduled Castes Sub Plan by the Central Ministries/Departments.

- (b) Final decision in this regard has not been taken by the Government.

Menace of drug and alcohol addiction

1359. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the funds allocated for prevention of alcoholism and drug abuse remain grossly underutilized for the last several years;