was reported to be 52 per cent in India on the basis of a report of the Mandal Commission and the number of the castes included in OBC during the last 20 years;

(b) the present percentage of OBC population after inclusion of the above mentioned castes as OBC castes; and

(c) whether the increase in the number of OBCs would be determined by organizing a fresh census, and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) The Mandal Commission in its report submitted in 1980 had estimated OBC population at 52% of the total population. Till date 2404 such entries (by way of castes, their synonyms, sub castes etc.) have been notified in the Central List of OBCs through 32 notifications.

(b) No authentic data is available about the population of the Other Backward Classes. However, as per National Sample Survey Office’s (NSSO) 62nd round survey report published in September, 2008, the OBC population was estimated as 40.2%.

(c) No, Sir, does not arise.

Disabled in rural areas

582. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that about 75 per cent of the people with disabilities live in the rural areas;

(b) whether Government policies to empower the disabled take into consideration the fact that the majority of their target group resides in rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) As per Census 2011, about 69.5 per cent of the persons with disabilities live in rural areas.

(b) and (c) The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006 focuses on measures for empowerment of persons with disabilities which cover the requirements of persons with disabilities living in rural areas. Further, the schemes and programs of the Ministry for empowerment of persons with disabilities are equally applicable to all
persons with disabilities irrespective of their place of residence. The major schemes of the Ministry such as Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme) and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rehabilitation Schemes are implemented through NGOs which have also presence in rural areas. Moreover, the National Institutes of the Ministry have been providing various services which also take care of the needs of persons with disabilities of rural areas.

**Right of transgender persons**

583. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated, or is in the process of formulating a national policy relating to the rights of transgender persons, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if so, whether the recommendations of the Expert Committee submitted on 27 January, 2014 have been accepted?


(b) The Government has, in principle, accepted the recommendations of the Expert Committee.

**Atrocities against scheduled castes**

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

(a) the number of atrocities committed against the Scheduled Castes during the last three years *i.e.* 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14;

(b) the State-wise and type-wise number of atrocities;

(c) the number of these atrocities that were tried under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989; and

(d) the conviction rate thereof, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) As per the Government