

Assembly Constituencies for fishermen community basing on the fishermen's population; and

(b) if so, whether any such survey has been conducted and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) Mandal Commission, under Miscellaneous Point No. 13.37 of its Report have recommended to the effect that Fishermen, Banjaras, Bansforas, Khatwers etc. still suffer from the stigma of untouchability in some parts of the country. With the view to giving better representation to certain very backward sections of O.B.Cs. like Gaddis in Himachal Pradesh, Neo-Buddists in Maharashtra, Fishermen in the Coastal areas, Gujjars in Jammu and Kashmir, have further recommended that areas of their concentration may be carved out into separate constituencies at the time of delimitation. However, no specific recommendation has been made to carryout survey of 9000 kms., of Coastal Belt of the country to reserve those Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies for Fishermen community basing on the fishermen's population. Hence no such survey has been carried out by this Ministry.

Standardisation of curriculum for schools of special children

1345. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out a common standardized curriculum for all schools of special children across the country, if so, the salient features thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to arrange recognition to these schools by specialized boards to provide degrees to special children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) Establishment of schools of special children is State subject. Accordingly, the curriculum, as prepared and approved by the authorities of the State, is being followed in such schools.

(b) This being a State subject, recognition from the Govt. of India to schools of special children is not required.

Grants-in-Aid for Physically Handicapped Welfare Organisation

1346. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes of grants-in-aid available for various categories of social