

Constitutional status for NCBC

68. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes recommended for conferring constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) at par with National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST);

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no effective mechanism or forum to deal with grievances of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the country; and

(c) whether Government is considering Constitutional status to NCBC, if so, the details thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As per terms of Clause 10 of Article 338 of the Constitution, National Commission for Scheduled Castes is empowered to look into the grievances related to Other Backward Classes.

(c) A proposal to further empower the National Commission for Backward Classes to deal with grievances of Other Backward Classes is in the process in the Ministry.

Funds for NGOS in Gujarat and Jharkhand

69. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) under the assistance scheme for the prevention of misuse of liquor and narcotic items during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise including Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(b) whether these NGOs have entirely utilised the said funds, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to ensure full utilisation of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a "Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention