

**Scheduled castes in Chhattisgarh**

†2836. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people belonging to Raidas, Ravidas, Rohidas are facing problems in getting caste certificate as these castes are not indicated in the category of suryavanshi caste in the list of Scheduled Castes of Chhattisgarh State in the file;

(b) whether many castes are included in the Schedules Caste list of Chhattisgarh State which do not exist in that State and whether these castes would be removed from this list; and

(c) if so, the procedure available in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) Raidas and Rohidas communities have been included in entry No. 14 along with Chamar, Chamari, Bhambhi, Suriyavanshi, Suriyaramnami etc. communities in the list of Scheduled Castes of Chhattisgarh. Members of these communities are entitled to Scheduled Castes certificates. Ravidas community has not been specified as Scheduled Caste for the State of Chhattisgarh; therefore, its members are not eligible for Scheduled Caste certificate.

(b) and (c) No Sir. Population returned in 2011 Census, in respect of all scheduled communities of Chhattisgarh.

**UNGA session on drugs**

2837. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the preparations being undertaken by Government of India for formulating its stand in United Nations General Assembly Special Session on drugs (UNGASS 2016);

(b) what is the process being followed to ensure that an informed debate and discussion takes place in the country including on the floor of the house and then Government spells out its stand on this issue; and

(c) what are the steps being taken by Government of India to ensure that medicines like buprenorphine are also available and accessible to legitimate patients suffering from opioid addiction?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) has informed that the United Nations General Assembly will hold a Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in 2016. This Special Session will discuss the achievements made so far with respect to the goals set in the “Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem” adopted in 2009 which defined action to be taken by Member States as well as goals to be achieved by 2019. With a view to effectively articulate the position of the Government of India during the UNGASS 2016, Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) has initiated consultation with all concerned Ministry/ Department/Agency on the issues likely to be discussed and action taken on the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted in 2009.

(c) The Drug Controller General (India) has informed that the medicines like Buprenorphine is already approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization for Opioid De-addiction subject to certain restrictions regarding its supply and sale. The drug is also controlled under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and Rules thereunder.

#### **Manual scavenging during religious congregations**

2838. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that during the Hindu religious congregations such as the Kumbhamelas in Nashik in Maharashtra thousands of dry latrines are constructed that forces the manual scavenging; and

(b) if so, what steps does the Ministry propose to take in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) The State Government of Maharashtra has informed that no dry latrines are constructed or proposed to be constructed for the Sinhashtra Kumbhmelas in Nashik.

#### **Misuse of Atrocities on SC/ST Act**

2839. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is actively considering to make Prevention of Atrocities on SCs/STs Act more harsher by amending it;