

Constitutional status to OBCs Commission

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

(a) whether there is serious consideration of the proposal to grant Constitutional status to OBCs Commission or set up a new Commission by giving it Constitutional status like SC/ST Commission and if so, the details of the move;

(b) whether a Constitutional amendment would be required to grant OBCs Commission the Constitutional status as the word 'OBC' does not appear in the Constitution; and

(c) if so, whether any ground work has been done in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) A proposal to further empower the National Commission for Backward Classes is at present under examination.

(b) The amendment in the Constitution would be required to empower the Commission as mentioned in (a) above.

(c) The matter is under examination.

Policy for conversion of public infrastructure into disabled friendly

596. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether any comprehensive plan or policy is on the avail from Government to convert public infrastructure, transport systems into disabled-friendly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) For Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), universal accessibility is critical for enabling them to gain access for equal opportunity and live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life in an inclusive society. Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Right and Full Participation) Act, 1995 under section 44, 45 and 46 categorically provides for non-discrimination in transport, non-discrimination on the road and non-discrimination in built environment respectively.