

Scheduled Tribes Section of Transfer of Land and Restoration of Alienated Land Act of 1975 should be the core Act upon which the State Government should try to solve the land issue of tribals. This is the main thing. Once we are able to restore the land which was so taken away earlier, that itself will be a big step. The second point is that there are restrictions on the alienation of land by the tribals.

Special grant to colleges

*87. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has chalked out a scheme to give special grant to the colleges showing good performance to enable them to achieve higher standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such colleges have since been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The University Grants Commission (UGC) approved a scheme in June, 2003 to identify "Colleges with potential for Excellence". The Scheme envisages special financial assistance to identified colleges of various categories during the Tenth Plan as per the following norms:

- Non-autonomous/not-accredited by NAAC — upto Rs. 35.00 lakhs
- Autonomous and not-accredited colleges or
vice-versa — upto Rs. 60.00 lakhs
- Autonomous and accredited colleges — upto Rs. 100.00 lakhs

The financial assistance could be used in the form of grant-in-aid by the identified colleges to improve their academic and physical infrastructure, develop innovations in teaching, adopt modern methods of learning and evaluation and introduce a flexible approach in the selection of courses. The UGC is engaged in identifying such colleges from among the 239 proposals received by the Commission.

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्रीजी ने जो विवरण दिया है, उस में कहा गया है कि विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग को उत्कृष्टता की संभावना वाले कॉलेजों के 239 प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं। इस संबंध में उन्होंने तीन श्रेणियां दी हैं जिनके अनुसार 35 लाख, 60 लाख और 100 लाख रुपए तक का विशेष अनुदान देने का प्रस्ताव है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि यह विशेष अनुदान दिए जाने के लिए क्या मानदण्ड निर्धारित किए गए हैं और इसके लिए आयोग काम करेगा या आपका विभाग काम करेगा? इन सब बातों का ध्यान कौन रखेगा, क्योंकि यह एक बड़ी रकम है? इसलिए क्या मानदण्ड रखे गए हैं जिनके तहत यह विशेष अनुदान दिया जाएगा?

श्री अर्जुन सिंह: सभापति महोदय, यह योजना गत वर्ष शुरू की गयी है और माननीय सदस्य की जो मूल चिन्ता है, मैं उस से पूरी तरह सहमत हूं। जो भी मानदण्ड रखे जाएंगे, उनमें इन सब बातों का ध्यान रखा जाएगा और फिर उनका चयन होगा।

DR. P. C. ALEXANDER: Sir, I would like to compliment the UGC for giving more liberal assistance to the autonomous colleges through the scheme because, I am sure, Rs. 1 crore that is earmarked for autonomous colleges will serve as an additional incentive for more colleges to adopt autonomy. The question was about the details of the scheme. Apart from the different scales of assistance, the last paragraph does not cover the information that the questioner and the people like me would like to get. My first supplementary is this. Why are there only 239 proposals when there are thousands of colleges in this country? Because of the fact that there is a screening process at the State level or the universities screening the proposals and then forwarding them to the UGC? I would like an answer on that.

Again, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the professional colleges are being covered by a similar scheme sponsored by the concerned Central organisation or is the UGC also covering the professional colleges like the Medical Colleges and the Engineering Colleges. Among the criteria that have been mentioned in the last paragraph, I find conspicuous omission of academic performance of these colleges, extra curricular activities like elocution competitions, debates, sports, etc., and also the standard of discipline maintained by these institutions. Do I take it that they are all there, but they are not mentioned here? If the hon. Minister could give clarifications on these, I would be grateful.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I think maybe, all this information is not there in the statement that has been laid. The intention is to make as detailed and as precise an assessment as necessary and as possible, to identify these colleges. At the moment, on a very general

assessment, this number has come. I can assure the hon. Member that the final identification, when it is made, will take into account all the safeguards and all the requirements which the hon. Member would like.

Opening of farm trade

***88. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade representatives from different countries recently met at Geneva to discuss the rules for opening up of formal farm trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stand taken by Government to safeguard the interests of the Indian farmers vis-s-vis the policy of the Western countries of providing huge subsidies to their own farmers, making it impossible for the farming sector in the country to compete in the global market; and

(d) the success achieved by India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Representatives of the Members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) have been meeting in the WTO Committee on Agriculture, Special Session, from time to time to negotiate modalities for further commitments under the WTO agreement on agriculture. They met formally last on 25th June, 2004. The Committee has been working under the broader objective of reaching possible agreement on agriculture, which will then be considered, along with proposals on non-agricultural products and other areas included in the Doha Work Programme, by the General Council of WTO at its meeting scheduled for 27th—29th July, 2004.

India, working within the G-20 alliance on agriculture, and along with other like-minded countries, has been seeking substantial reduction in trade-distorting domestic support, elimination of all forms of export subsidies provided by developed countries and substantial market access improvements particularly in products of export interest to developing countries. Any further commitments in market access by developing countries has to fully take into account their rural development needs and food and livelihood security concerns. Special and differential