

(d) if so, how Government will make sure that the really deserving communities are not put to disadvantageous position as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) The criteria followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe are (i) indications of primitive traits, (ii) distinctive culture, (iii) geographical isolation, (iv) shyness of contact with the community at large, and (v) backwardness. Government of India on 15.6.1999 (as further amended on 25.6.2002), has approved modalities for deciding claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying lists of STs. Accordingly, only those proposals which have been recommended and justified by concerned State Government/UT Administration can be processed further. Thereafter, it has to be concurred with by Registrar General of India (RGI) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) for consideration for amendment of legislation.

(b) There is no attempt to dilute the existing criteria by the Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (b) above. However, a Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to examine the existing criteria and procedure has recommended for making criteria scientific and objective along with a process which is consultative, transparent and time bound. No decision has been taken on this.

Internet facility for tribal residential schools

2063. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to provide internet facility to all tribal residential schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of tribal schools which have been provided computer labs with internet facility during the year 2015-16?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not formulated plan to provide internet facility to all tribal residential schools during 2016-17. However, States have taken measures to provide internet in schools, including tribal residential schools, under various schemes of both Central and State Government.

(c) The requisite information is not Centrally maintained by the Ministry.