

(b) if so, whether the State Government has also made recommendation to this effect; and

(c) if so, by when these areas would be declared as tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The proposal for declaring Jounpur-Rawai and Dharchula-Munsyari and Joshimath areas of Uttaranchal as tribal areas, received from Government of Uttaranchal was examined in the Ministry. These areas are not eligible for declaration as Tribal Areas/Tribal Sub-Plan Areas as the areas do not have preponderance of Scheduled Tribe population.

Encroachments in Mumbai

1296. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that salt pan land in Mumbai is surrounded by encroachments;

(b) if so, the steps taken to free the salt pan land from encroachments;

(c) whether NOC would be given for constructing roads and providing other civic amenities in Mumbai on these lands; and

(d) whether the applications for college/school would also be entertained?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Some pockets of lands are reported to have been encroached upon by slum dwellers by way of unauthorised construction of shops, hutments etc.

(b) Salt Commissionerate, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, under whose possession the Salt Pan Lands are at present, has reported that several steps have been taken to remove the encroachments which include special drives with the help of local police and Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) for removing the encroachments, fencing of salt pan land in some parts and employment of private armed guards to protect the salt pan lands.

(c) and (d) Utilisation of Salt Pan Lands at Mumbai will depend on the location of the site, requirement of land for various uses, conformity with CRZ regulations etc.