

Construction of ashrams and hostels

†1285. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh has submitted any proposal to the Central Government for construction of ashrams and student's hostel in the tribal areas of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government has submitted two separate proposals to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received a proposal for construction of 10 boys and 21 girls hostels and 206 ashram schools for Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh State. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has received a proposal for construction of 4 boys hostels and 2 girls hostels for Scheduled Caste students.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has requested the State Government to confirm the availability of land at the proposed sites.

Scheduled Castes status to migrants in Uttaranchal

†1286. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that migrants, who hailed from Eastern Bengal in tarai area of Uttaranchal are demanding Scheduled Caste status;

(b) whether he is also aware of the fact that their relatives who were also migrated from East Bengal simultaneously but they settled in West Bengal and Orissa and they have been given status of S.C. by calling them of non-scheduled in these States;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether the State Government has requested to grant SC status to them; and

(d) if so, by when they would be given such status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Namasudra, Pod and Poundra communities in respect of West Bengal and Namasudra community in respect of Orissa had been specified as Scheduled Caste as per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

(c) The State Government of Uttaranchal has proposed inclusion of persons belonging to Namasudra, Pod and Majhi castes within Bengali community who had acquired Indian citizenship and had been displaced between 1952 to 25th March, 1971 and migrated to those areas which are now part of Uttaranchal.

(d) No time frame can be assigned as the proposal requires consultation with various agencies.

Mentally retarded persons

†1287. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of mentally retarded people is increasing rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of mentally retarded persons during the last three years, State-wise and age-wise;

(d) the steps being taken by Government for welfare of the mentally retarded persons in Madhya Pradesh?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.