

on the basis of their commercial considerations. The Ministry of Finance on its part has taken the stand that the reduction of age for senior citizens to 60 years under the Income Tax Act will require a policy decision which will have to be taken after due consideration to the revenue aspects.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has received a response in this regard from a few States only. The State Government of Haryana has informed that it is already conferring several benefits to persons aged 60 years and above. The State Government of West Bengal has adopted the age of 60 years for senior citizens. The State Governments of Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal are following the age of 60 years while Rajasthan is following the age of 58 years for males and 55 years for females and the State Government of Assam prescribes the age of 60 years for females for disbursement of old age pension to senior citizens.

(d) The assessment of the financial burden on the Central and State Governments is not possible since a separate data is not being maintained for the same.

Commission for weaker sections of society

674. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up three commissions, to study the roadmap for improvement of disadvantaged sections of society, the commission for disabled and also for Scheduled Tribes;

(b) by when these Commissions would submit their reports;

(c) the steps being taken to implement their recommendations;

(d) the population of these sections; and

(e) whether any amount has been allotted in the budget 2004-05 to implement the works to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) The Central Government had set up three Commissions viz. National Commission to study developmental aspects of Denotified, Nomadic & Semi-Nomadic Tribes on 23.11.2003, Commission for Economically Backward Classes on 6.1.2004 and Commission for Persons with Disability on 16.10.2003 under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. No Commission for Scheduled Tribes has been set up under this Ministry as the matter pertains to Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(b) These Commissions are scheduled to submit their reports as indicated below:

Name of the Commission	Date of Submission of the report
National Commission to study the developmental aspect of De-notified, Nomadic & Semi-Nomadic Tribes	21.11.2004
Commission Economically Backward Classes	5.1.2005
Commission for Persons with Disability	Annual Reports

(c) Action will be initiated after receiving the reports from these Commissions.

(d) As per 2001 Census, the ST population is 8.45 crore. In respect of persons with disabilities, National Sample Survey Organization 2002 has given estimates of 18.49 million disabled persons in the country. Population estimates in respect of de-notified tribes, nomadic tribes and semi-nomadic tribes and economically backward classes are not available.

(e) No amount has so far been allotted as recommendations of the Commissions regarding works to be undertaken are yet to be received.