

Reservation for forward castes

3325. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government will consider reservation for the economically backward amongst the forward castes/communities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) There is no proposal under consideration to provide reservation for economically backward amongst the forward castes/communities.

(b) Does not arise.

Human Space Flight Programme

3326. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has undertaken an ambitious project of Human Space Flight Programme in order to carry a crew to space and return them back, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the status of the project as on date and the details of fund spent on this project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No. Sir. As of now, Human Space Flight Programme is not an approved programme. Currently, ISRO is working on a few critical technologies relevant for human spaceflight.

(b) The development of critical technologies includes Crew Module (CM) systems, Environmental Control and Life Support System (ECLSS), Flight Suit and Crew Escape System (CES). The Crew module was realised and flight tested in the experimental mission of GSLV MK-III launched on 18-12-2014, where the re-entry characteristics and the recovery of the Crew Module was demonstrated. The flight suit development has been completed. Development of the ECLSS and the Crew Escape Systems are progressing well.

Towards development of critical technologies, an amount of ₹ 173 crores has been approved and out of which ₹ 136.90 crores has been utilised as on 31 March, 2016.