

stopped including in the State of Tamil Nadu. Hence, the question of giving another opportunity to applicants of VTPs after finding them unsuitable during inspection in the past does not arise.

Loan for Skill Development

1715. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to simplify the process of getting loan for skill development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether soft loan is proposed to be disbursed through a digital voucher directly to bank accounts of qualified students; and

(d) if so, the criteria for getting the benefits of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Under the Skill Loan Scheme loans are provided, through the banks, to eligible students who wish to go through skill training programmes in the country. The revised Scheme was launched in July 2015. There is no proposal to further simplify the process for getting loans under the Scheme.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to disburse loans through a digital voucher directly to bank accounts of eligible students, under the Skill Loan Scheme.

Skill Development of SCs/STs and OBCs

†1716. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan for skill development of unemployed youth of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Skill Development Programme for Scheduled Castes, Safai Karamcharies and Backward Classes is being implemented by the three Finance and Development Corporations under the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment viz. (i) National Scheduled Castes Finance and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Development Corporation (ii) National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, and (iii) National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation. Further, under the scheme Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP), State Governments are required to utilise at least 10% of their allocated funds for skill development purposes.

For Scheduled Tribes (ST), the Ministry of Tribal Affairs follows a multi-pronged approach to address the skill development needs and aspirations of the unemployed youths of the target group.

(b) Skill Development Training for Scheduled Castes/Safai Karamcharies and OBCs are being organised by the three Corporations in different trades including Computer Technology, Apparel Technology, Plastic Technology, Manufacturing of leather goods, construction skills, etc. The trainees from the target groups are provided free training and a monthly stipend. These courses are conducted by Sector Skill Councils and other reputed institutes. On successful completion of training, the trainees are also provided placement assistance and/or entrepreneurial guidance to start their own ventures with financial assistance.

As per the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, it implements the scheme of Vocational Training Centres, under which funds are provided to State Governments/UTs Administrations and other agencies for skill training of ST youths in different trades. Funds are also provided under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP) and by way of grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution for skill development of STs. Funds are released on receipt of proposals by State Governments subject to requisite information and availability of funds.

Empowerment of differently-abled old persons

1717. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any action plan for empowerment of differently-abled persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up Old Age Homes for differently-abled persons to take their care in old age;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the budget allocation made and actual expenditure incurred towards their empowerment during the last three years; and