

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): I am sorry, Sir. I am unaware of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am allowing your notice regarding demand to fill faculty posts during Special Mentions.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: That was the Zero Hour notice. Okay, Sir.

श्री सभापति : चूँकि टाइम है, इसलिए आपको allow कर रहा हूँ। She knows.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION - *Contd.*

Need to fill up the vacant faculty posts in premier educational institutions

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, it is a matter of concern. According to recent report of the HRD Ministry, approximately 38 per cent faculty posts are lying vacant at India's premier institutions like IITs, NITs, IIMs and IISERs. As a consequence of such shortage of faculty, quality of education in these premier institutes is gradually degrading which is against the national interest. Therefore, through this august House, I urge that urgent and suitable directions may please be issued to the Government of India to take necessary and appropriate steps to initiate the process of filling up these vacancies at the earliest. Thank you, Sir.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members should note that if they have given notice and I have already admitted one in a week, priority will be given to the Member who has not got even one chance in that week. If I find time, then I will call them also. Prima facie, every Member should get an opportunity depending on the importance of the issue that is being raised. This has to be kept in mind.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, what about Calling Attention and Short Duration Discussion?

श्री सभापति : कृपया आप बैठिए। If they are admitted, it will be informed. If these are not admitted, that would also be informed to hon. Members. I am going through each and every notice and examining whether there is possibility of discussing the same issues in this Session either during the Bills or during the discussion on Demands for Grants. They are not being given priority. Now, Question Hour.

12.00 Noon

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Schemes for upliftment of Scheduled Caste

*226. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate any new policy/scheme for the economic upliftment of Scheduled Caste;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the said policy/scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Ministry has formulated/revamped a series of schemes for the upliftment of the SCs — including access to education, skill development, providing income generating assets, and infrastructure development in the SC localities. Some of the major initiatives are given below: