

Scheduled Caste status to carpenters

844. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M.Ps. from Himachal Pradesh as well as the Legislative Assembly of the State have requested a number of times to remove discrepancies between the carpenters (Badhai) and ironsmiths (Lohar) living in the new areas of Himachal Pradesh and have also been requesting to declare carpenter community as scheduled caste like ironsmiths;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Funds for schemes for Scheduled Castes

845. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given to Orissa for various schemes meant for the Scheduled Castes during the last three years and the amount utilized till today; and

(b) the reasons for non-utilization of the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) The State Government has been utilizing the funds under various schemes for the development of Scheduled Castes. The details are given in the enclosed Statement. (See below)

(b) The reasons for non-utilization include the following: The Schemes are open ended and continue from year to year: funds have been released to the State Government every year on the basis of the proposals sent by the State Government.