

Punjab, Rajasthan, Tami Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry.

These Corporations are envisaged to function as catalysts in the successful implementation of various economic programmes for Scheduled Castes. The promotional role consists of identifying Scheduled Caste beneficiary clusters through special surveys, identification and motivation of eligible beneficiaries, assessment of their felt needs, preparation of suitable economic development schemes for different occupational groups, their financial and other requirements and bringing the target groups in contact with financial institutions and Government development agencies. By providing the Margin Money Loan at low rates of interest and meeting the viability gaps, taking the assistance of the other agencies also, these Corporations prove helpful in encouraging the commercial banks to provide loans to Scheduled Caste beneficiaries on a sufficiently extensive scale.

(c) There are no proposals under consideration.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Cases Pertaining to Election Disputes Pending in Supreme Court and High Courts

5406. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending in various High Courts and Supreme Court pertaining to election disputes to Lok Sabha since 1985;

(b) the reasons for this delay; and

(c) whether the Union Government chalked out any plan to expedite the proceedings of courts in cases of election disputes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) According to the information furnished by the Election Commission, the number of election petitions pertaining to Lok Sabha elections pending in the various High Courts since

1985 is 20; likewise the number of appeals pending in the Supreme Court is 6.

(b) According to sub-section (6) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 trial of an election petition shall, so far as is practicable consistently with the interests of justice in respect of the trial, be continued from day to day until its conclusion, unless the High Court finds the adjournment of the trial beyond the following day to be necessary for reasons to be recorded. Sub-section (7) of the same section provides that every election petition shall be tried as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made to conclude the trial within six months from the date on which the election petition is presented to the High Court for trial. In the said Act, there is no such procedural requirement or time limits in respect of appeals to the Supreme Court. The disposal of election petitions thus tends to get delayed on account of these factors.

(c) The appointments of more Judges in the High Courts would, to some extent, ensure expeditious disposal of election petitions. Accordingly, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices concerned had been requested to send proposals in this regard. Proposals for creation of new posts in some High Courts have also been agreed to. Government are making all possible efforts to fill up the existing vacancies of permanent Judges and Additional Judges in the High Courts and also to make appointments against the new posts to facilitate speedy disposal of election petitions.

Per Capita Plan Allocation for Karnataka

5407. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita allocation of plan assistance to Karnataka during the Seventh Plan and how does it compare with the Sixth Plan; and

(b) whether any special central assistance has been allocated for the development of tribal areas ?

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