

Proposal for Amendment of Fifth Schedule of the Constitution for Extension of Scheduled areas

1277. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution has been amended for extension of scheduled areas;

(b) whether the proposals for extension of scheduled areas have been called for from the States;

(c) whether the proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government has been received; and

(d) if so, the expected date by which notification is to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposals have been invited from States having areas under the Fifth Schedule for their rationalisation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal is under consideration.

Identity Cards System in Mizoram

1278. DR. R. ROTHUAMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the then Central Congress Government had introduced Identity Card System in Mizoram during Emergency period making it compulsory for every local person above the age of 14 years and non-carrying of the Card resulted in immediate search, manhandling, harassment and even physical tortures of the poor innocent villagers;

(b) whether this has badly affected the existing relationship between the civilians and the security forces; and

(c) if so, whether Government will take immediate steps to abolish this

Identity Card System throughout Mizoram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) The system of issuing identity cards to all male adults, above the age of 14, was introduced by the Mizoram Government in December 1973 as a counter insurgency measure to check violent activities of armed Mizo underground. It was rigidly enforced after the murder of I.C.P. and two other senior Police Officers in Aizawl (Mizoram) in January, 1975. By 1976 about 95 per cent of the eligible persons were reported to have been covered under the scheme.

(b) There have been no specific reports to show that the introduction of this scheme has led to any strained relationship between the civilians and the security forces.

(c) Does not arise.

Cost of HMT Watches

1279. SHRI NATVARLAL B. PARMAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the common man is not in a position to purchase watches produced by H.M.T. as the minimum price of a watch is Rs. 200/-;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to lower their price; and

(c) the names of the famous H.M.T. watches and the prices thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). Good quality hand-wound Janta watch is manufactured by H.M.T. at an ex-factory price of Rs. 140/-. With the addition of 10 per cent excise duty and all other duties (including sales-tax) which vary from State to State, the selling price, as for instance in Delhi, works out to Rs. 168.94. Steps are being taken to augment production of watches by H.M.T. and to develop lower-priced watches.