

Clashes with Harijans5047. **SHRI K. OBUL REDDY:****SHRI YAGYA DATT
SHARMA:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the specific steps Government are contemplating to avert the clashes and disturbances between Scheduled Castes and other dominant communities;

(b) the steps Government specifically propose to take to improve the economic, social and living conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other economically weaker sections of the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to create a separate Ministry to take care of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections and to improve their living conditions?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL):**

(a) Offences against members of Scheduled Castes (such as murder, rape, grievous hurt, serious mischief or arson in respect of their property) etc. are punishable under the law and come within the definition of "Public Order" which is a State subject according to the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Substantive action under the law in such cases has to be taken by the State/UT Government concerned. However, the Centre keeps in close touch with them in this matter. Various suggestions have been sent to them from time to time to expedite measures aimed at removing the basic factors responsible for such incidents and for strengthening the administrative machinery to ensure prompt and effective action in such cases, to provide protection to the weaker section and to instil a sense of security among them. The Prime Minister has also initiated a dialogue

with the leaders of Opposition parties in the Parliament on this subject in order to evolve a national consensus.

(b) The Government of India/State Governments have drawn up specific schemes for the educational, economic and social development of the Sch. Castes Sch. Tribes. No such schemes have been drawn up by the Govt. of India for other economically weaker sections which is done by the State Governments at their own level. The main objectives of the five Year Plan 1978-83 are employment generation, reduction in poverty and provision of basic needs and services. The strategy of development for the Sch. Castes and Sch. Tribes lays greater emphasis on identification of schemes under the general sectors of development which would be of particular benefit to these groups. In order to improve the economic conditions of Sch. Castes a new Integrated Rural Development Programme has been drawn up for 1500 blocks where the Sch. Castes constitute more than 20 per cent of the population. Besides this, some special programmes for the economic development of these groups are proposed to be taken up during the Plan.

The main thrust under the Backward Classes sector will be to raise the literacy percentage and improve educational levels of these groups through pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, coaching, boarding grants, etc. Greater emphasis will be placed on girls' education and checking wastage and drops-outs. The removal of untouchability will be pursued vigorously by the setting up of special Cells, intensification of publicity and propaganda and the active involvement of voluntary agencies. It is proposed to strengthen the machinery for the implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act.

The Tribal Sub Plan schemes which have been prepared with reference to the specific needs of each area of

tribal concentration of 50 per cent and above and operating through 180, Integrated Tribal Development Projects will be intensified. It is proposed to identify pockets of 10,000 population living contiguously and of whom 50 per cent are tribals and include these pockets in Tribal Sub Plan. Elimination of exploitation has been accorded highest priority.

(c) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Strikt by Employees of N.D.M.C.

5048. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the recent strike by the electricity workers of the NDMC and for how many days it continued;

(b) the extent of loss suffered in installations as a result of the reported sabotage by the striking workers;

(c) whether the strike was anticipated by the NDMC; and

(d) the reasons for their failure to avert it in time and how it was settled ultimately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (d). The Nai Delhi Palika Vid-yut Pradaya Karamchari Sangh, a recognised Union of N.D.M.C. workers gave notice of strike on 1-5-1978 in support of certain demands. Though there were 24 demands, the salient demands, related to payment of ex-gratia for 1971-72 and 1977-78; formation of a separate cell for the electricity workers; payment of Motor Cycle/Scooter and Cycle allowance and promotion of Junior Engineers (Electrical) to the post of Asstt. Engineer (Electrical). The Labour Commissioner was informed of the strike notice on 2-5-1978. Simultaneously conciliation machinery was set in motion. Meetings

were held by the N.D.M.C. with the representatives of the Sangh with a view to arrive at an amicable settlement. The workers, however, continued with their agitation in the form of relay dharna, daily demonstrations, hunger strike etc. and finally on 6-6-78 they announced a 24 hours tool down/pen down strike. The tool down/pen down strike was continued as general strike and it lasted from 6th to 14th June, 1978.

During the strike a number of installations in the sub-stations, switching stations, feeder pillars and road lighting system were found to have been interfered with and put out of action. An attempt had also been made to drain out the transformer oil while the transformer was in service, and to cut the High Tension cable feeding transformer. Name plates of a large number of High Tension and medium voltage Switch boards had been erased, their operating handles removed and a number of feeder pillars completely defused. A sum of Rs. 20,000 (approx.) has been spent by the N. D. M. C. on material purchased/issued from stock for restoration of supply.

The strike ended on the intervention of the Lt. Governor Delhi who assured the striking workers a speedy consideration of their demands.

Directory of Scientific Instruments by SCIO, Chandigarh

5049. SHRI A. K. SAHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Scientific Instruments Organisation, Chandigarh has brought out a Directory of Scientific Instruments;

(b) if so, in how much time this was compiled and the total expenditure incurred on it; and

(c) the amount earned on account of selling the Directories?