

(e) whether Tanti of South Bihar are listed as Scheduled Caste and called as Pan Tanti in South Bihar and choupal in North Bihar; and

(f) if so, the reasons for not getting S.C. facilities by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

(e) Tanti has not been listed as Scheduled Caste in Bihar. According to a report of Govt. of Bihar. Tantis of South Bihar are called as Pan Tantis and of Pumea as Choupals.

(f) The matter of treating Tantis as Scheduled Caste is under the consideration of the Government.

NHRC Guidelines for Protective Homes & Mental Hospitals

5900. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had entrusted the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) with the responsibility of supervising and monitoring the functioning of protective Homea dnd Mental Hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the Protective Homes and the Mental Hospitals covered in the studies;

(c) whether on the basis of these studies, the NHRC has framed and issued nodal guidelines for improving the functioning of these Home and Mental Hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Torture of Nepali Citizens

5901. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nepali citizens living in Assam

and other areas of North-Eastern States are being tortured and uprooted;

(b) if so, whether they are being turned away from Shrirampur and other check post of Assam;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Police at Assam check posts torture these Nepali citizens overnight to extract money from them and a lot of difficulties are faced by them to visit Kamakhya Devi temple; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) According to information furnished by the State Government no such cases have been reported.

However, citizens of Nepal entering India without valid documents are being detected and pushed back through Shrirampur check gate their Foreigners Act, 1946.

[English]

Protection of Rights

5902. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government have implemented the Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act 1955 so far;

(b) whether the Government have apprised the necessity of the implementation of the Act to States;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Many State Governments have implemented several provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 concerning them. The implementation of the Act is an ongoing process.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment and senior officers of the Ministry have been writing to the Chief Ministers/Chief Secretary/Secretary and other officials of the State Governments emphasizing the need for creating the necessary institutional arrangements and infrastructure for ensuring the speedy implementation of the Act. The State Governments were also advised to take a