

schemes for SCs/STs/Disabled/Minorities during the last two years is as follows :-

Year	Amount released (Rs. in crores)
1996-97	163.63
1997-98	172.79

No welfare scheme specifically for widows is being implemented by the Ministry.

(b) and (c) There is no classification of "backward" or "most backward" classes within each target group for getting benefits under the schemes.

(d) Details regarding the total number of beneficiaries in respect of all the schemes put together are not available.

[English]

Allotment of Salt Land

206. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to offer the salt land owned by the Union Government to new Cooperative Housing Societies for housing the poor and the needy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 98 acres of land of which possession has been taken over by this Ministry from Ministry of Industry is intended to be used for Government purposes.

Inclusion of OBCs

207. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments have requested the Union Government to include different castes in the Other Backward Castes and nomadic tribe list;

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

(c) whether the Government have received any recommendations from Maharashtra Government for inclusion and exclusion of certain backward castes from OBC list in view of suggestion made by Khatri Commission; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Proposals for inclusion of castes/communities in the Central List of Other Backward Classes, including those from State Govts. are made to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and on the basis of the advices of the Commission, Government notifies amendment in the Central List.

(c) No such recommendations have been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

(d) Does not arise.

Misutilisation of Funds by NGOs

208. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned 'NGO's: need for a code of ethic' appearing in the 'Hindu' dated January 1, 1999.

(b) if so, the facts reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the functioning of the NGOs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

De-Addiction

209. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent under the de-addiction programme during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the State-wise amount spent by the Government and non-Government agencies under the said de-addiction programme;

(c) the number of beneficiaries of the de-addiction programme, State-wise;