

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:125

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2006

PROMOTION OF INTERCASTE MARRIAGES

Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to provide attractive incentives to encourage inter-caste marriages as reported in The Times of India dated September 14, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Governments have also been taken into confidence before introducing such scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the role and contribution of the Union Government and State Governments in the proposed scheme;
- (e) whether the Union Government is also planning any scheme to provide education to Dalit Children in coveted schools as reported in the said news-item; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MEIRA KUMAR)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in answer to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 125 for 30-11-2006 by Shri Dalpat Singh Parste and Shri K. C. Pallani Shamy regarding `Promotion of Intercaste Marriages`

(a) & (b) The Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment addressed the Chief Ministers on 28.02.2006 to consider increase in the incentive amount for inter- caste marriages to Rs. 50,000/- of which 50% would be by way of central assistance, as inter-caste marriages are an effective instrument of combating the evil practice of casteism.

(c) & (d) The protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 are being implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes central assistance is provided mainly for strengthening of administrative and judicial machinery, incentives for inter-caste marriages where one of the spouses belongs to the Scheduled Castes, awareness generation and relief and rehabilitation to the affected persons. The funding pattern of the Scheme is such that 50% of the total expenditure incurred by the State Governments over and above their respective committed liability is met by central assistance. The Union Territory Administrations get 100% central assistance. As regards incentive for inter caste marriages, it is seen that the amount of the incentive in sixteen States varies between Rs. 2,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-.

(e) & (f) Action has been initiated to introduce a new Scheme for providing Top Class Education.