

(e) and (f) Paucity of fund is the main constraint in establishing health infrastructure as per norms. Therefore funds are being obtained from external agencies, wherever possible.

[English]

#### Exclusion of Income Tax Payers from PDS

962. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to exclude Income Tax payers from the purview of Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the time by which this decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Functioning of Police

963. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to change the functioning of Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (c) As "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, it is essentially for the State Governments to bring about changes in the functioning of their respective Police forces. Within the Constitutional limitations, however, the Central Government has been writing to the States emphasis in the need to bring about such changes. The stress laid by the Central Government has been on modification of the existing recruitment and training practices in the States and modernisation of their intelligence, weaponry and communication systems in order to keep pace with times. Apart from advisories, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the States through its Scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces as well as by releasing funds on the basis of recommendations of the Finance Commission. Improvement in the Police functioning is a continuous process and the Central Government is committed to ensure that the

State Government get all assistance to improve the policing in the country.

#### Adequate Power to National Commission for SC/ST

964. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government empowered the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to ensure Dalits of their rights and social justice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a memorandum has been issued assigning the duties of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the Department of Personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Section 2 Clause 5 Sub-Clause (a) of the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act empowers the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution or under any other law. For this purpose under Section 2 clause 8 of the Act the Commission has all the powers of a Civil Court trying a Suit.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Freedom Fighters of Telengana

965. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee under the Chairmanship of Ch. Rajeshwara Rao appointed to recommend the names of the Freedom Fighters of Telengana Region, has submitted its report;

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

(c) the time by which the pension to those recommended freedom fighters is likely to be granted?