

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SC/ST Status to Rajau Dhobhi Community

2044. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANIPE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the "Rajau" Dhobi community of Madhya Pradesh are recognised as Scheduled Castes in only three districts and in rest of the districts they are recognised as a backward community;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to abolish regional limitations;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be abolished; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No Sir. However "Dhobi" and not "Rajau" Dhobi community has been specified as Scheduled Caste in Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore districts of Madhya Pradesh. Dhobi community is included in the list of Backward classes in Madhya Pradesh except the three districts mentioned above.

(c) and (d) No Sir.

(e) Region-wise specifications are made in accordance with Article 341 of the Constitution of India.

[English]

74th Amendment

2045. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has pointed out resource crunch to discharge their duties

for water supply, sanitation etc. under the 74th Amendment Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to assist the State Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Withdrawal of Clauses of Rehabilitation

2046. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some NGOs have urged the Government to withdraw some impracticable clauses of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1993;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether standardisation of training for rehabilitation by professionals is hampering work in rehabilitation sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Expert Committee has been constituted comprising prominent NGOs and rehabilitation experts to examine various provisions of the Act. The Expert Committee has submitted its recommendations and further action is being taken on the same.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.