

are behind this resurgence of Iran and has the Government taken note that the American fleet, part of the Seventh American Fleet, the Enterprise and some other vessels, have anchored off Karachi? Has this got anything to do with the danger of Iran-Iraq war spilling over into the other Persian Gulf countries and whether the United States of America has told Iran that any spreading of the war into the Gulf countries would threaten the vital interests of the United States?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : In a conflict like this, the local conflict, the danger of its spilling over in a wider context is always there and the involvement of the outside powers and the major powers is always there and that is the reason that we have always taken this position that they should be settled peacefully through peaceful negotiation.

There are conflicting reports about the relative strength. But we would not like to pass any judgment on this matter, their relative strength. Moreover, these are not very verifiable sources. We get the analysis from different sources and, therefore, I would not like to pass a judgment on this.

Fortunately, in this conflict, although it has gone on for several years, there is no direct involvement of the outside powers, Although Iraq is getting replenishment of arms from some sources whereas Iran is getting spares and others from other sources, apart from that, there is no major problem.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : The American fleet off Karachi. It is also a direct danger to us. Can you tell something about it?

MR. SPEAKER : We are having a discussion on it.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : We have a call attention tomorrow. We will answer that.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I said.

Inclusion of 'Tanti' Community in the list of Scheduled Castes

*348. **SHRI C. P. THAKUR :** Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received representations to treat 'Tanti' (Tatwa) Community as synonym of 'Pan', which is in the list of Scheduled Castes in Bihar ;

(b) whether Union Government have invited the comments of State Government of Bihar in this regard ; and

(c) the date by which the decision is likely to be taken by Union Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal to include 'Tanti' (Tatwa) as synonym of 'Pan' which is in the list of Scheduled Castes in Bihar is being considered along with similar other proposals in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in consultation with the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration including the Government of Bihar and the Registrar General of India. At this stage, it is not possible to indicate the date by which the proposal for the comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would be finalised.

Further, amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of Articles 341 (2) and 342 (2) of the Constitution.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : The whole idea of putting certain castes in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is to promote their social, educational and economic conditions. Now, is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that according to the recent census there are certain Scheduled Castes in Bihar in which there is not a single Matriculate or a single literate woman and there are certain Scheduled Tribes like the Pahadia tribes of Santhal Parganas and the Birhor tribe of Chota Nagpur who are fast disappearing. I want to know what steps is the Government taking for their improvement. It is not enough that you allot some funds for their improvement. In spite of that this is the position.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : It is not there in the main question. It is out of context.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Is the Government thinking to include Bhuiyan of Chota Nagpur in the list of Scheduled Tribes and Machwa, the fishermen in the list of Scheduled Castes as their conditions are also as bad as other Scheduled Castes ?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know how it arises out of the main question. You can ask only about Tanti community.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : There cannot be other supplementaries on this.

MR. SPEAKER : There are 500 odd communities. They are asking for it.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : We cannot say about all of them.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : In 1970 or 1971, the then Law Minister, Mr. Panampally Govinda Menon introduced an amending Bill including so many communities as recommended by the State Governments in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Of course, from Kerala State Kudumi community was also included. But that is not the question. The point is that even though that Bill was introduced it could not be passed. Will the Government now consider reintroducing that Bill and get it passed by the Parliament.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : The Government is coming with a comprehensive Bill and at that time we will consider all the aspects. From time to time this question has been raised and it is only the Parliament that is competent to add or delete any name of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. So we are intending to bring a very comprehensive Bill in this regard.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Since the Government proposes to bring a legislation for amendment of this list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, may I know from the hon Minister which are the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, communities the Government propose to include in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think it arises out of the main question. It is irrelevant.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : It is not possible to indicate it now.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is only regarding Tanti community. There is no more scope for questions. You can put a separate question if you want to ask other things.

Feasibility studies on Computerisation in Various Departments

***349. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the money spent for conducting feasibility studies on computerisation in various departments and the subsequent legal, operational and administrative implications ;

(b) the names of the agencies which were entrusted with such studies and the names of department for which such study was conducted ; and

(c) the names of the department in respect of which reports have since been submitted by such agencies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Government of India has spent about Rs. 14 lakhs, for conducting feasibility studies on computerisation of various Departments for 19 major studies conducted by outside agencies. In addition, feasibility studies on computerisation of various Departments have been carried out by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Department of Electronics, which have been set up by the Government of India as a nodal organisation for assisting the various departments with their computerisation requirements. NIC carries out such feasibility studies free of cost. So far an estimated 120 man-months of effort has been made by NIC for preparing feasibility studies. Wherever legal, operational and administrative implications are involved, they are looked into by the concerned Departments or by NIC on a case to case basis.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed *Annexure*.