

West Bengal Government suggested that a certain number of students may be despatched to the mofussil areas. A number of existing institutions outside Calcutta were expanded and Intermediate classes were started in some selected High Schools. Mostly displaced persons and some non-displaced persons were admitted in these institutions.

Shri B. K. Das *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

MAXIMUM AGE LIMIT FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

*936. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to raise the maximum age-limit by six years in the case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates for Government services has been finally considered;

(b) whether these candidates will be given the benefit of serving five years more at the end of their services terminated according to age-limits; and

(c) whether backward class candidates are also entitled to such age concessions?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) No proposal to raise the maximum age-limit by six years has been under consideration. In order to secure adequate representation of Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes in public services, Government first raised the maximum age-limit by 3 years. In June 1952, they further raised the maximum age-limit by 2 years (i.e. 5 years in all) in the case of non-gazetted posts and services. The question of raising the maximum age-limit by 5 years also in the case of gazetted posts and services is at present under consideration.

(b) No.

(c) The question as to what classes of citizens (other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) should be recognised as backward and what concessions should be granted to them will be considered after the recommendations of the Backward Classes Commission have been received.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, from how long this concession of three years in the age-limit has been given to these classes?

Shri Datar: These concessions are given since 1950.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether this concession of five years is also given to first class posts?

Shri Datar: No. It is not given to gazetted posts at all at present, but it is being given to all non-gazetted posts.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it not a fact that the All-India Depressed Classes Association made a request to the Government that this concession should also be given to class I officers?

Shri Datar: Yes, a request has been made.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What action is being taken on that request?

Shri Datar: It is under examination.

Shri Nanadas: In view of the fact that there is great paucity of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates for class I and II services, may I know whether the Government propose to relax educational and other qualifications for these posts?

Shri Datar: No, Sir.

Shri E. Iyyani: May I know whether this concession has extended to State Government servants also?

Shri Datar: Yes, to all.

RECLAMATION OF LAKE AREAS IN MANIPUR

*937. **Shri L. J. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 1006 regarding reclamation of lake areas in Manipur, asked on the 8th December, 1952 and lay on the Table of the House the reports submitted by the Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture?

(b) What are the specific recommendations contained in the reports, which Government propose to implement?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) The report being a confidential document Government do not propose to lay it on the Table of the House.

(b) The recommendations are still under consideration.

Shri L. J. Singh: In reply to Question No. 1006 dated 8th Dec. 1952, the hon. Minister stated:

"The Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture, accompanied by an officer of the Central Water and Power Commission visited