

instruction to examining authorities to permit linguistic minorities to take their examinations in their respective mother tongues?

Dr. M. M. Das: There was a Conference of the State Education Ministers. The recommendations of that Conference have been circulated to all the State Governments and in so far as the particular question is concerned, I have no information.

DEPARTMENTAL PROMOTION COMMITTEES

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

(a) whether candidates who do not secure proper place in the panel of names or the candidates who are not selected by the Departmental Promotion Committees can represent to higher authorities; and

(b) whether Government propose to bring any change in the process of selection by Departmental Promotion Committees?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) There is nothing to prevent such representations being made. They are carefully considered on receipt.

(b) No.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know Sir, whether Government is aware that Departmental Promotion Committees constituted of the head of the Department and two or three other officers of the Department, may be swayed by the consideration of provincialism, favouritism and nepotism? If so, what steps have Government taken in the matter?

Shri Datar: Government are not aware that these Boards are swayed by any such considerations and hon. Members will please know that in important cases a member of the Union Public Service Commission also presides over these bodies.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know if these Departmental Committees also take into consideration the seniority of the candidates?

Shri Datar: The principal test is merit; seniority may come in only as an ancillary.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is the Government aware of the recommendations of the Gorewala Committee that seniority must be taken into account?

Shri Datar: That is what I said; seniority is taken into account, but it comes only as an ancillary; principally merit is taken into account?

Shri Thimmaiah: While promoting officials, is any special consideration shown to Scheduled Caste officials; if not, why not?

Shri Datar: So far as the question of promotions is concerned there is no reservation at all. Reservation is done only in the case of appointments or recruitments.

Shri Thimmaiah: I asked whether any special consideration is shown.

An Hon. Member: That means reservation.

Shri Datar: 'Special consideration' is included in the term merit.

CRASH OF I. A. F. JET PLANE

*276. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an I.A.F. jet plane crashed near Vellore on the 6th January 1954?

(b) What were the circumstances under which the plane crashed?

(c) Was a Court of Enquiry conducted by the I.A.F.?

(d) If so, what are the findings of the Court of Enquiry?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d). A Court of Enquiry was ordered on the 7th January 1954, but the proceedings have not yet been finalized. The known facts are that Flt. Lt. Dandapani was air testing a Vampire Aircraft assembled at H.A.L. when it appears the engine cut.