

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. A High Level Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister of December 26, 1995 to look into the background of issues of Chakmas and Hajongs in Arunachal Pradesh and to identify the course of action to be adopted. The Group held its first meeting on January 5, 1996 and constituted an official level Sub-Committee. In the Meantime, the Hon'ble Supreme Court delivered a judgment on January 9, 1996 on a petition filed by the National Human Rights Commission concerning the issues related to the Chakma refugees in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

[Translation]

Creamy Layer in OBCs

404. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the work of deciding creamy layer in Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and implementation of reservation policy so far; and

(b) the action taken by the National Commission for backwards classes in this regard since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI):

(a) In respect of the Central Government the criteria for determining the 'Creamy Layer' has been given in the schedule to the DDPT's OM No. 36012/22/93-Estt. (SCT) dated 8.9.93.

The State Government have to evolve their own criteria of 'Creamy Layer, as per the judgement of Supreme Court in the case of *Indira Sawhney and other vs. Union of India and others*.

The following steps have been taken for implementation of reservation policy;

The Government of India have notified the Central list of OBCs in respect of 25 States/UTs.

The Government have provided reservation of 27% of vacancies in direct recruitment for Other Backward Classes in Civil Posts and services under the Government of India subject to the exclusion of socially advanced persons/sections (Creamy Layer). The Scheme of reservation has been made applicable in direct recruitment to all Ministries and Depts. of Government of India, public sector undertakings & Nationalised banks under the Government of India.

In order to fulfill the quota earmarked for OBCs, the Government of India have provided relaxation of Standard to OBCs as in the case of SCs/STs candidates, in respect of written examination & interviews.

The Upper age limit prescribed for direct recruitment has been relaxed by three years for OBC candidates in direct recruitment.

The number of attempts in the case of OBC candidates, who are otherwise eligible, has been increased to 7 in respect of Civil Services Examinations.

(b) The National Compassion for Backward Classes has been set up for entertaining, examining and recommending upon requests for inclusion and complaints of over inclusion and under inclusion in the lists of OBCs. NCBC is not concerned with implementation of the reservation policy.

Gas Refilling Centres for Vehicles in Delhi

405. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government have started gas refilling centres for vehicles in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to start such centres in other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Six Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) dispensing units are in operation in Delhi. Out of these, four units are serviced by truck-mounted cascades in which gas is filled by a mother-compressor in Ghaziabad and remaining two units are on-line stations in which gas is directly supplied from the pipeline through a compressor. One more on-line dispensing unit is being installed.

(c) and (d). CNG dispensing units are already in operation in Bombay and Baroda. There are also plans to set up on-line CNG dispensing units in Agra by 1996-97.

[English]

News Gathering Rates

406. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: