

a minimum standard is prescribed as part of the minimum educational qualification, it would apply uniformly and there is no provision for relaxing the prescribed minimum standard in the case of SC/ST candidates. The Government have not withdrawn any concession granted earlier.

In so far as reservation matters in Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks are concerned, they are governed by the Presidential Directives issued by the Bureau (now Department) of Public Enterprises and the Banking Division of the Ministry of Finance respectively.

(b) and (c). Three Hon'ble Members of Parliament, namely S/Shri Arvind Netam, D. L. Baitha and Amitabh Bachchan had taken up the issue with this Ministry. Suitable replies to all the three Hon'ble members clarifying the position have been sent.

Appeals pending in the Department of Public Grievances

2459. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether quite a large number of appeals are pending in the Department of Public Grievances relating to employees of various Public Sector Undertakings and various Authorities for disposal and decision for removal of individual grievances;

(b) if so, the total number of such appeals along with the rate of disposal;

(c) whether certain appeals relating to dismissal, discharge, termination, reversions etc. of employees and officers of civil aviation department or its undertakings have been also pending for long; and

(d) if so, details thereof and action taken to decide the issues expeditiously ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) :

(a) to (d). The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances deals with matters relating to policy and coordination of issues relating to (i) redressal of public grievances (as distinct from grievances pertaining to service matters) in general, and (ii) grievances pertaining to Central Government agencies. Grievances relating to service matters, when received from employees of Government or Public sector undertakings, are forwarded to the concerned departments for appropriate action. There is, therefore, no pendency of such cases in this Department.

A complaint against the International Airports Authority of India for alleged victimisation and wrongful removal of an Airport Officer (Operations) was forwarded to the Department of Civil Aviation.

Amendment to Gadgil Formula

2460. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTAIAK : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Chief Ministers made a strong plea for amending the Gadgil formula for providing assistance to the State so that a special category could be created to help the most backward areas of the country;

(b) whether Union Government are aware that due to paucity of resources, Orissa could not make necessary progress; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). The Seventh Plan outlay of Orissa has been agreed at Rs. 2700 crores which is 80 per cent higher than its Sixth Plan outlay of Rs. 1500 crores Central assistance in 7th Plan accounts for 42.4 per cent of the outlay.