

Public Service Commission for appointment as Cadets during the last 15 years;

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes and Tribes therein;

(c) the total number of boys who were actually appointed year after year during the same period; and

(d) the number of Scheduled Castes and Tribes boys therein ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) and (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-255/681.*]

(b) and (d). The information is not available. As already stated by me in reply to part (c) of the earlier Question under reference, selection is made for the available vacancies strictly on the basis of the merit list as recommended by the selection agencies. No separate statistics are, therefore, maintained regarding selection of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The labour involved in collecting the information by looking into each individual application received during the last 15 years will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

RESERVATION OF S.C. AND S.T. IN THE RECRUITMENT TO ARMED FORCES

2144. SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the recruitment to the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the Constitutional basis for this exception of non-application of the principle of reservation that is followed in making appointments to public services;

(c) whether Armed Forces fall within the purview of public services envisaged in the Constitution for the purposes of reservation; and

(d) if not, the specific provisions justifying their exclusion ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (d). According to Article 335 of the Constitution, the claims of members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to Services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State. As the need for maintaining the highest standard of efficiency in the Armed Forces is paramount, the policy of Government is that while everything possible must be done to remove all handicaps in the way of members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who wish to enter the Defence Services, there should not be any specific reservations for them.

ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS CIVIL SERVICE

2145. SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3606 on the 26th June 1967 and state :

(a) whether the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service has since been constituted to absorb the senior civilian staff in Army, Navy and Air Force Offices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Government has decided to introduce, with effect from 1-3-1968, a Scheme for constitution of an A.F.H.Q. Civil Service, an A.F.H.Q. Clerical Service and an A.F.H.Q. Stenographers' Service, for civilian employees of the general and Stenographers' cadres of Armed Forces Headquarters and Inter-Service Organisations.

(b) The salient features of the Scheme are :—

(i) enhancement of the pay-scale of Civilian Staff Officers, Grade I, to be redesignated Senior Civilian Staff Officers, from Rs. 900-50-1250 to Rs. 1100-50-1400;

(ii) combination of the two existing grades of Civilian Staff Officer, Grade II (Class I—Gazetted; pay scale—Rs. 800-40-1000) and Officer Supervisor (Class II—Gazetted; pay scale Rs. 740-30-830-35-900) into a single grade of