

Decline in Quality of Recruitment to I. A. S.

986. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of regular recruits to the I. A. S. has declined to a great extent during the last several years as admitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs before the Estimates Committee and also testified to by the evidence given before the Administrative Reforms Commission ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to attract more talented persons into I.A.S. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A study made by the Government regarding the availability of bright young graduates for the Indian Administrative Service has revealed a gradual decline in the number of first class graduates appearing in the I. A. S. etc. Examination. This decline is also reflected in the officers recruited to the Indian Administrative Service.

(b) The failure of the Service to attract talented persons might be due to its unattractive remuneration, particularly in the early years, and promotion prospects in the Service. To make the Service more attractive, it would be necessary to revise its pay structure and this question is under the consideration of the Pay Commission. In the meantime, it has been suggested to the State Governments to consider providing amenities such as rent free accommodation to those who are posted as Sub-Divisional Officers, a rent-free house or in lieu thereof, a special pay of Rs. 200 to those who are posted as District Magistrate/Collectors.

With a view to relieving the stagnation in the various cadres in the matter of promotion, the minimum limit for the number of selection grade posts in an I. A. S. Cadre, is being raised from 5 to 15 per cent of the Senior Duty Posts under the State.

Measures to attract better Talent into Service

987. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a few years

back, in order to attract better talents into I.A.S. the pay scale of the Divisional Commissioner (on the rank of Joint Secretary to the Union Government) was raised from Rs. 2,250 to Rs. 2,500-2,750 but it proved ineffective as a new entrant to the I.A.S. does not get this rank before at least 20 years of service ;

(b) whether even after this experience, Government have recently taken a decision to raise the Selection Grade Posts (Rs. 1,800-2,000) from 5 per cent to 15 per cent on the same ground, for in this case also a new entrant has to wait for at least 16 years to get this Grade ; and

(c) if so, whether it would not benefit top ranking officers only with no effect on the quality of recruits as the talented persons can have no patience to wait for such a long period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The pay scale of Divisional Commissioner (rank of Joint Secretary to the Union Government) was raised from fixed pay of Rs. 2,250/- to Rs. 2,500-125 2-2 750 with effect from 1st September, 1965 on account of increased responsibilities of the post.

(b) and (c). A decision has been taken to increase the number of posts in the Selection Grade of IAS (Rs. 1, 00-2,000) from 5% to 15% to remove the stagnation in various cadres of IAS and to equalize the promotion prospects of I.A.S. Officers in different State cadres. As these steps have been taken to remove the stagnation and to improve promotion prospects of I. A. S. Officers, it will have same bearing through not a direct one, on the quality of recruits to I. A. S.

Recommendations of Study Team on Centre State Relations

988 SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Study team on Centre State Relations recommended a special I. A. S. Examination for first and high second class Graduates ;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken regarding this matter ;