

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The New York Times published on May 12, 1998 what it stated to be the text of a letter from the Indian Prime Minister to President Clinton.

(b) The report is datelined Washington. It would, therefore, appear that the text was made available to the newspaper outside India.

[Translation]

Reservation Policy

6226. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether after getting promotion, the employees of general category become senior to those SC and ST employees who were promoted prior to these general category employees under reservation policy;

(b) whether recruitment for Group C and D posts was banned but no instructions were issued for filling up backlog vacancies in Group 'A' and 'B';

(c) whether practice of selecting SC/ST candidates for promotions in higher grades has been discontinued on the basis that these candidates have obtained less than minimum qualifying marks;

(d) whether reservation for SC/ST candidates in promotion has been discontinued whereas it is a Constitutional Right under Article 16(4)(a);

(e) whether reserved posts for SCs/STs lying vacant in the current year and backlog vacancies were dereserved;

(f) whether several O.Ms relating to reservation for SCs/STs which were against the interest of SCs/STs were issued in 1997 in the light of courts' decisions; and

(g) if so, action taken by the Government to watch the interest of SCs/STs employees in the light of courts, decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is, however, subject to the condition that the reserved category employee in question was promoted in preference to his senior general candidate because of application of the rule of reservation.

(b) There is no ban on recruitment for Group C and D posts.

(c) There is no separate relaxed standard of evaluation for promotion of SC/ST candidates.

(d) Reservation in promotion has been continued beyond 15.11.97 in pursuance of Article 16(4A) of the Constitution.

(e) There is total ban on dereservation of SC/ST posts in direct recruitment. In promotions, dereservation is allowed only in case of non-availability of SC/ST candidates.

(f) and (g) In pursuance of certain pronouncements of the Supreme Court, some orders having bearing on the reservation policy have been issued so as to ensure uniformity in approach in the implementation of the orders of the Supreme Court. While the Government is committed to adopt suitable measures for the welfare of SC/ST employees, action in accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court, which become the law of the land in terms of Article 141 of the Constitution, had to be taken.

[English]

Multi-pronged Strategy for Foodgrain

6227. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Minister has proposed a multi-pronged a multi-pronged strategy to double the country's foodgrain production over the next decade;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been worked out by the Ministry and submitted to the Cabinet;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the foodgrains policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) An Action Plan for Doubling of Food Production and Making India Hunger Free in Ten years has been prepared by the Planning Commission under the National Agenda for Governance. This Action Plan envisages the following production targets by the year 2007/8 :-

Sl.No.	Item	Production targets (million tonnes)
1.	Foodgrains	300.0
2.	Oilseeds	45.0
3.	Sugarcane	495.0
4.	Fruits & Vegetables	342.0
5.	Milk	130.0
6.	Egg (Million Nos.)	5300.0
7.	Fish	9.6

The above targets are under finalisation in consultation with State Governments and a final Action Plan is proposed to be evolved in due course.