

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6360

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002

APPOINTMENT OF SC/ST/OBC AS HIGH COMMISSIONERS AMBASSADORS

RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) place-wise details of High Commissioners / Ambassadors appointed during the last three years till date in various countries vis-a-vis SCs/STs/OBCs out of them ;
- (b) the norms fixed for selection of High Commissioners/Ambassadors ;
- (c) the number of IFS officers in the Ministry vis-a-vis the number of officers belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs, out of them as on date ; and
- (d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to appoint officers from amongst the said categories in Indian missions abroad in proportion to their number?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Appointment of 114 Ambassadors / High Commissioners to the following countries have been made by the Government during the last three years :

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, United States Of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Fiji, Ghana, Jamaica, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Out of the above, a total of 14 Ambassadors/High Commissioners appointed to Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, North Korea, Lebanon, Panama, Peru, Romania, Sweden, Turkmenistan, Mauritius, New Zealand, Uganda, and Zimbabwe belong to SC category and 6 Ambassadors / High Commissioners appointed to Ethiopia, Oman, Slovak Republic, Ukraine, Botswana and Namibia belong to ST category. Recruitment of officers on the basis of OBC category status commenced from the year 1994 and consequently officers of OBC category have as yet not attained the requisite seniority for being appointed as Ambassadors /High Commissioners.

(b) Appointments to the post of Ambassadors/ High Commissioners from the Foreign Service are decided on the basis of a number of criteria, which include, inter alia, their back ground, relevant experience and an overall suitability to the tasks and the post.

(c) As on date the total number of IFS officers in the Ministry is 587, out of which number of officers belonging to SC, ST and OBC categories are 95, 44 and 26 respectively.

(d) While the percentages prescribed for reservation in SC, ST and OBC categories are strictly followed at the recruitment stage, there is no policy of reservation in postings in Missions abroad, including at the level of Ambassadors/ High Commissioners. However, conscious efforts are made towards appointment of officers belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories who have the requisite background, experience and seniority, as Ambassadors/High Commissioners.