

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1210

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005

APPOINTMENT OF SC/ST/OBC COMMISSIONERS/AMBASSADORS IN INDIAN MISSIONS

Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the country-wise details of High Commissioners/Ambassadors including officers belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs appointed in various countries during the last three years till date;
- (b) the prescribed norms for selection of High Commissioners/ Ambassadors;
- (c) the number of I.F.S. officers working in the Ministry including the officers belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs as on date; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for appointing the officers belonging to the above categories in proportion to their number in Indian missions?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

a) Appointment of 111 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, Belgium, Brazil, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, North Korea, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia.

Out of the above, a total of 16 Ambassadors/High Commissioners belong to SC and ST categories, which includes 10 officers appointed to Algeria, Belarus, Finland, Oman, Slovak Republic, Turkey, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Brunei Darussalam, and Kenya belonging to SC category and 6 Ambassadors/High Commissioners appointed to North Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Panama, Mozambique and Zambia belonging 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) Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners are appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of the Prime Minister. These appointments are decided on the basis of a number of criteria, which include, inter alia, their seniority, background, 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 611, out of which number of officers belonging to SC, ST and OBC are 86, 48 and 48 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.