

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1648
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011
HIGH COMMISSIONERS AMBASSADORS
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the location-wise, Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe/ Other Backward Class category-wise details of the High Commissioners/ Ambassadors appointed in various countries during the last three years till date;
- (b) the norms prescribed for the selection of High Commissioners/ Ambassadors;
- (c) the details of IFS officers including the number of such officers belonging to Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe/ Other Backward Classes working in his Ministry as on date; and
- (d) the details of the effective steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to appoint the officers of the said category in proportion to their number in Indian Missions?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) A list is placed at ANNEXURE-A.
- (b) The selection of High Commissioners/ Ambassadors is done on the basis of several criteria that include: seniority of the officer; his / her past work experience and regional expertise; language proficiency; annual performance appraisal reports and functional requirements.
- (c) Total number of IFS Officers: 677. [Total number of SC IFS Officers: 105; Total number of ST IFS Officers 45: Total number of OBC IFS Officers: 78]
- (d) The officers of the Indian Foreign Service are appointed through the Civil Services Exam conducted by the Union Public Service Commission in accordance with the extant policy on reservation of the Government of India.