

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:450  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012  
SC AND ST IN IFS  
Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total number of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers working in various missions abroad, mission-wise;
- (b) the number of such officers who belong to Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) categories, mission-wise;
- (c) whether the officers belonging to SC/ST categories are considered for posting in the missions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the norms laid down in this regard;
- (e) whether any steps are proposed to be taken to post IFS officers belonging to SC and ST categories in the missions abroad as per the norms; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Some 386 Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers are currently deployed in 124 Indian Missions abroad. Mission-wise details are attached at ANNEXURE-A.
- (b) The posts in Indian Missions are not earmarked based on categories.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) IFS officers belonging to the SC and ST categories are considered for postings abroad in the same manner as other officers, primarily based on overall availability, suitability and seniority.
- (e) & (f) IFS officers belonging to the SC and ST categories are regularly posted to Missions abroad.