

MR. SPEAKER : If Mamataji is saying : "It is related." How can we say that it is not related ?

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is true, Sir. Please ask the Minister to reply. The Minister is willing.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the Minister is unwilling to answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji, the Minister is not willing to reply. I am not barring him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Can you do it ? I don't think.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY : May I ask a simple question ? Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. senior, efficient Minister, may I request him to appoint an expert body to go into details to find out the reasons why this sort of an industry, which, at one time, was very good in name and the company had the goodwill and everything, is not working well ? I would like to know whether he can appoint a committee to go into this question.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : We will consider his request.

Confirmation of Grade IV Officers in Central Information Service

*821. SHRI GANGA RAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether reservation orders about confirmation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are being followed in regard to confirmation of officers of Grade IV of the Central Information Service;

(b) if so, the reasons for which many SC/ST officers with long service are yet to be confirmed even in the lowest ladder of Central Information Service; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) All the SC/ST direct recruits recruited prior to the examination held in 1982 have been confirmed to Grade-IV of Central Information Service against their roster points.

(b) No Grade-IV officer recruited before 1982 is awaiting confirmation.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI GANGA RAM : May I know from the Hon. Minister the criteria and the norms prescribed under the service conditions relating to the confirmation of officers of Grade-IV of the Central Information Service ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : There are the general statutory requirements relating to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe which have been strictly observed in the recruitment as well as the promotion to Grade-IV in the Central Information Service.

As regards confirmation, they are eligible for confirmation as soon as the probation is completed. Before 1988 when a revised order of confirmation was given effect to, a certain percentage was reserved for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe candidates at the time of confirmation also. But after the 1988 order, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe candidates—officers and general candidates—are eligible for confirmation as and when probation is satisfactorily completed; *i.e.* when confirmation is due.

SHRI GANGA RAM : I would like to know whether the rule of confirmation is being applied uniformly to the candidates of general and reserved categories. If so, what is the average time lag for confirmation of both the categories of candidates with reference to the strength of the cadre in 1982 ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : For those recruited before 1982, 190 candidates of Grade-IV to which the question relates including 26 scheduled caste and 5 scheduled tribe officers were confirmed on 15.4.1988. There is no inter-se time lag between scheduled caste and scheduled tribe officers as well as the general officers.

At the present moment, 167 officers

including 26 scheduled caste officers and 11 scheduled tribe officers are awaiting confirmation. We admit that there has been delay in the confirmation of officers from 1972 to 1982. This was because the permanent strengths in the various categories could not be fixed in time. So, the DPCs could not meet. This lacunae has already been corrected. All those officers have been confirmed.

I would also mention that there is no discrimination or any difference in the procedure of confirmation or the time schedule of confirmation between scheduled caste and scheduled tribe officers vis-a-vis officers of the general category.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister kindly inform whether confirmation of officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being deliberately delayed? If not, has the Government received any representation from the reserved category officers in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : There have been representations relating to officers not only from the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe categories; but also the general officers. As I said earlier from 1972 to 1982 there was a delay in confirmation because of two reasons—firstly it was decided to start the confirmation process from the higher echelon to the lower echelon; i.e. from Grade-I downwards and that caused some delay in the Grade-IV confirmation and secondly the authorised permanent strengths for each year could not be finalised in time. All these requirements have now been met, the grievances have been redressed and all the pending confirmations have been completed in relation to officers recruited before 1982.

There is no problem at the moment. No loss or substantial disadvantage has been caused to those who were not confirmed because at the time of eligibility they were given quasi permanency and later on they were confirmed. Many officers have gone from Grade-IV to Grade-III and from Grade-III to Grade-II at the appropriate time in spite of the fact that they were not confirmed in

time. So there is no grievance, as such, pending at the moment.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : Sir, with your kind permission I would like to make it clear and assure the hon. Member that I have gone into this question. I am not really satisfied because of a number of reasons some delay has occurred as my colleague has pointed out. I have made it quite clear to my officers emphatically that cases which are pending confirmation for want of DPC being held etc. etc, this must be done. I value this thing very much. My officers have assured me that with regard to Grade-IV the whole thing will be completed by June and with regard to other matters, namely, Grade I and II where UPSC is required to do we are taking it up with them. We shall do our best to expedite whether it is scheduled castes, scheduled tribes or others are there. So far as CIS officers are concerned we will see that they do not suffer for want of any meeting of DPC not being held. There were reasons as matters had gone to Tribunal and there was question of fixation of seniority list, etc. Without going into the details I want to assure that we are very much alive about it and we will see that without any avoidable loss of time the whole thing is done.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir the hon. Minister has very good intentions and he has made every effort to ensure that candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes get justice in spite of being well-intentioned, several such cases are pending in which unnecessary delay is being made. In view of this does the Government propose to change the existing monitoring system or adopt a new system by which injustice could be removed?

[*English*]

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I shall be happy to discuss all the aspects with the hon. Member. I welcome the hon. Member to discuss it with me.