

Separate Cells for Recruitment of S. C. and S. T. Candidates

*287. **SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established any separate cell for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for framing rules in respect of their recruitment in Government of India offices; and

(b) if so, whether Government would suggest to other Government organisations to open similar cells for the recruitment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):

(a) All matters relating to the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Central Government services are dealt with in the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms in which a separate Section has been established for the purpose. The orders issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms prescribe the detailed procedure for reservation of posts, and appointments to the reserved posts. For the implementation of the above orders, appropriate staffing has been provided in the different Departments of the Government.

(b) Presumably the reference to "other Government organisations" relates to the Public Sector Undertakings. The Bureau of Public Enterprises has issued a directive through the Departments controlling the different undertakings that cells should be constituted in the undertakings for the disposal of work relating to the reservation of posts and appointments for Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: I would like to know whether the State Government follow the same rules or not. If not, what measures the Central Government is going to take to enforce

the State Governments to follow these rules?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA By and large all the State Governments are committed to following the same pattern of reservation in the services as is obtaining in the Central Government. We are constantly in touch with the State Governments regarding this matter as to whether or not they are maintaining the proper roster and also whether the orders are being implemented or not. Our officers go there from time to time and discuss the whole thing with them and see to it that the State Governments issue proper orders and they are properly implemented by the various departmental heads.

SHRI T BALAKRISHNIAH. Whether the hon Minister is aware that the rider added to the recruitment rules defeat the purpose of reservation for Scheduled Castes. If so, what action the Government proposed to take to see that the reservation to different categories of posts are filled up?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I am not clear about what type of riders the hon Member has in view. The recruitment rules have no such riders. They just say that certain percentages of reservations have to be made and every attempt is made to see that those reservations are effected.

SHRI T BALAKRISHNIAH I shall explain what riders are there.

MR SPEAKER He need not explain.

SHRI D BASUMATARI: May I know whether it is a fact that often a plea is made under article 335 and the 'privileged words' are used that suitable candidates are not available from among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and if so, whether Government are thinking of removing article 335 or amending it so that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes may not be deprived of the opportunity to enter the services?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It is true that in certain cases, it is recommended that certain posts should be dereserved but such cases are of a very isolated nature and the posts which are sought to be dereserved are of a highly technical nature, but even in that respect, the process for dereservation has been made so stringent that every case has to be screened in the respective Departments, then it should go to the level of the Minister, then it is referred to the Department of Personnel and we go into the whole thing, and sometimes we disagree with them and send it back to the UPSC to have readvertisement and thus we see that no such action is taken regarding dereservation in cases where deserving candidates are available

SHRI D. BASUMATARI: My question has not been replied to either in letter or in spirit. My question was direct. Under the plea of article 335, the privileged words are uttered that suitable candidates are not available, and this plea is resorted to by the appointing authorities. Actually, there are a number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are graduates and M.A.s. but they are not being found fit even for class III posts. Therefore, I am asking the question whether the purpose of Government is to make available opportunities for service to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or not and see that this plea is not made under article 335 by the appointing authorities that suitable candidates are not available from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and in order to ensure this, whether article 335 is going to be deleted or amended? That is the straight question

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I have very clearly said, anticipating the feeling which the hon. Member had while he put this question, that this plea is not being resorted to in the manner which the hon. Member suggests. There is no question of graduates or M.A.s not being treated as suitable for class III posts. I have said

that only in very rare cases where very specialised qualifications are required, dereservation is done, and the procedure for dereservation of posts is so stringent that cases of graduates and M.A.s not being selected for class III posts just does not arise.

SHRI D. BASUMATARI: May I seek your protection, Sir ...

MR. SPEAKER: No more protection now.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: May I know whether it is a fact that in certain Departments of the Union Government, particularly All India Radio, reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not at all implemented?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: All India Radio is as much subject to reservations of this nature as any other department.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: Let him give me the figures. That is not true.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: If the hon. Member asks me for the figures, I shall supply them; I do not have them with me just now for each department; but even if he mentions an individual case I shall pursue that.

Conversion of Press Trust of India into a Public Corporation

*288. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to convert Press Trust of India and other agencies into a Public Corporation; and

(b) the reasons for the abnormal delay in taking a final decision?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The ownership-management pattern of news agencies is under consideration. Every effort is being made to expedite decisions on various aspects of this intricate problem.