

India Services Officers' is causing demoralisation;

(b) what is the administrative logic to restrict empanelment of very few officers to the rank of Joint Secretary; and

(c) steps proposed to be taken to consider reversion to pre-1980 model of empanelment of officers of All India Services to the rank of Joint Secretary and above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Appointments to the post of Joint Secretary in the Government of India are made under the Central Staffing Scheme from a panel of officers meeting a minimum acceptable qualifying standard. It is not correct to say that empanelment has been restricted to a very few officers. Presently approximately 1500 officers are empanelled to hold the post of Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

(c) There is no proposal to revise the procedure for empanelment.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, ten years ago the Government brought some administrative reforms. There is a feeling that such reforms are causing demoralisation among senior officers of All-India Services, like, IAS, IFS and IPS. Nowadays, these officers become Additional Secretaries barely two years before their retirement. If they do not get a promotion at this age, it causes demoralisation. Sir, due to the process of empanelment of a limited number of officers, there is a lot of lobbying. Would the Government review the process of empanelment?

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: It is not correct to say that only a limited number of officers are being empanelled. At present, 1500 officers of various cadres who participate in the Central Staffing Scheme have been empanelled for holding posts of Joint Secretary. Of these, about 850 officers are from the IAS cadre. It is not correct to suggest that only a small number of officers are being considered. At present, 1500 officers have been empanelled to the Joint

Secretary cadre.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Does the Government have any plans to enhance the retirement age from 58 to 60 years so that the Government can utilise the services of able and experienced officers?

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present there is no such proposal.

Reservation for appointment of Members of UPSC

*406. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation for Scheduled Castes is followed in appointment members to the Union Public Service Commission and not for the Backward Classes; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) The appointment of Chairman and Members, Union Public Service Commission is made in accordance with the provisions of Articles 316(1) and 319 of the Constitution. There is no reservation for any community in these appointments.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: No doubt it is a constitutional appointment. But Shri B.P. Mandal, in his report, suggested measures to be adopted for improving the lot of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. Can the reservation policy be adopted by the President or the Governor? What is the difficulty in the president or the Governor adopting this reservation policy so far as appointments to the Central Public Service Commission and the State Public Service Commission are concerned?

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: We are bound by the Constitution. According to the Constitution, there is no provision for reservation as far as constituting the UPSC Board is concerned. This is being followed for

the past many years. Eminence and suitability are the only criteria in this case.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: You can find eminent and suitable people from the reserved category also. In such cases, will you adopt the reservation policy?

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Sir, I have already answered the question.

SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Sir, this Government is committed to social justice. They have said that they will take all necessary steps to give representation and create a sense of participation among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Today they say that the Constitution does not permit it in some cases. I would like to ask the Minister whether he would contemplate amending the statutes which are coming in the way of giving such representation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people in bodies like the Union Public Service Commission, the Planning Commission and also in the appointment of ambassadors and judges?

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: This Government is definitely committed to certain policies. We stand for social justice. The present UPSC Chairman belongs to a minority community. The previous Chairman belonged to a Scheduled Tribe.

SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Five vacancies have been filled and not even a single man is from Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: मान्यवर सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने उत्तर दिया कि एमिनेंस के आधार पर पब्लिक सर्विस कमिशन में सदस्यों की नियुक्ति की जाती है। मैं आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले दस वर्षों में क्या एमिनेंस के आधार पर कोई आपको बैकवार्ड क्लास का आदमी मिला जिसको पब्लिक सर्विस कमिशन में नियुक्ति की गई हो और अगर नहीं की गई है तो क्या सरकार इस पर गंभीरता से विचार करेगी कि बैकवार्ड क्लास के भी प्रतिनिधि इसमें नियुक्त किए जाएं ताकि पिछड़ी जातियों को न्याय मिल सके।

The Prime Minister (**SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA**): Sir, with your kind permission I would particularly like to draw your attention to this question, and say that mere appointment of a Chairman belonging to a particular

community is not going to create more opportunities for communities which have been neglected all along these fifty years. There should be suitable reservations to those communities which have been neglected in recruitment, in Government appointments. The Mandal Commission Report was implemented by Shri V.P. Singh. Now there is opportunity for backward classes and backward tribes to get at least 27 per cent reservation in Government appointments. Even if the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission or belongs to a backward class, even if he sits there, unless reservation is provided, it is not possible to give the benefit to those communities. Against this background the Mandal Commission Report was accepted and 27 per cent reservation was given. Now there is a little scope for those communities who have been neglected; these communities are going to get the benefit irrespective of whether there is a Muslim Chairman or a Scheduled Caste Chairman or a Backward Class Chairman. Because of the reservation that has been made on the basis of the Mandal Commission Report, these communities are getting justice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri S.M. Krishna. He is not there. Shri Saifulla.

SHRI SAIFULLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to ask the Minister how many vacancies are there in the UPSC and what is the mode of selecting them by appoint a Muslim. The Government does not show any mercy. Why can't we make an amendment and give Constitutional rights?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Normally, it is not because he happens to be a Muslim that he is appointed as Chairman of the UPSC. He is the senior-most member of the UPSC. He is a man who has got vast experience and he has served as a Member of the Commission and now he is the senior most man. That is why Government has taken a decision to make him the Chairman. It is not mercy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the hon. Minister has been saying, 'persons of eminence'. I agree; not only on the question of appointment of a Chairman but even in the appointment of a Member of the UPSC. The Prime Minister was kind enough to say that they will be considered.

Sir, there are three or four vacancies in the UPSC as on date. The vacancies are there and I would like to know the break-up from the Government of India. How many backward class persons have been appointed so far in the UPSC? Sir, the backward classes are the neglected classes though 55 per cent population is there in this country. Even 27 per cent reservation has been brought by the previous Government which was implemented by the Congress Government. Today, the situation is, whether it is appointment or recruitment of people, it has been totally flouted and the person who has come in merit category has been shown against the quota of reservation. This is the injustice being done to the backward classes. I gave a letter to the hon. Minister asking him whether Government will give an assurance in appointments. I would like to know whether these two vacancies will be filled up from the backward classes.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member is not right. There are no four vacancies. There are only two vacancies. They have to be filled up shortly. Regarding the suggestions that he has made one or two suggestions he has given - I have accepted them. They have to be implemented by the Prime Minister shortly.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: What about the appointment of a Parliamentary Committee for Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? I have been requesting the Prime Minister to respond favourably.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Question Hour is over.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The Chairman has to say that, not you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is still half a minute. Mr. Shinde. I am sorry, Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

*404. **SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the newsitem published in the Tribune, dated the 5th November, 1996 under the caption "LPG shortage in Ludhiana";

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news item refers to the shortage of LPG supplies, black-marketing and delivery of refills after 21 days. Due to shut-down of Mathura Refinery during the month of September and October, 1996, and slippage in arrival of imports, bulk LPG supplies to bottling plants at Karnal and Jalandhar were affected resulting in delayed refill deliveries to the consumers during the said period in Ludhiana Market.

On account of various steps taken by Oil Industry during the period to tackle the problem of backlog in certain markets, the supplies have since been normalised in Ludhiana Market. The refill delivery to the consumers after 21 days of the previous supplies has been introduced as a step to meet the genuine requirement of all consumers and to prevent diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorised uses. A cylinder normally stays for 30 days in a normal household. Apart from other steps to control temporary backlogs that may arise, Government has also constituted a Task Force to monitor the supply of LPG on day to day basis during the present peak demand of winter.

(d) To increase the availability of LPG in the country, the indigenous production of LPG is planned to be increased by expanding the capacity of the existing refineries and fractionators as well as by setting up new refineries and fractionators. Further, the import capacity of LPG has been increased by setting up new LPG import facilities at Mangalore and Kandla by Public Sector Oil Companies. From 1993 onwards, Govt. has also allowed private parties to import LPG and sell it to the consumers at market determined prices to increase the availability of LPG.