

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to make reservations in the Defence Services for SCs/STs/OBCs. Recruitment to the Defence Services is open to all Indian nationals irrespective of caste, creed, community, religion. The endeavour has been to provide free and equal opportunity to all sections of the population to join the Defence Forces and render service in accordance with the ideals of secularism, democracy and social justice.

In order to maintain highest standards of operational efficiency, appointments and selections to the Defence Services have been made strictly on merit and no reservation on the basis of caste, community, religion, area or class is provided.

Special Courts to deal with atrocities on SCs/STs and other weaker sections

1665. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special court has been set up anywhere in the country in the last five years to take up serious cases of atrocities committed on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other weaker sections; and,

(b) if so, the number of courts set up and the progress in the trial of cases before them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Special Courts have been specified or separately established in most districts of the country, except in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland, for trying cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Reports received from the State Governments and Union Territory

Administrations so far indicate that around 3167 cases were disposed of by the courts in 1994 and that around 2470 cases were pending with them as at the end of that year.

Payment of Salaries to D.T.C. Staff

1666. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KAYLAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that payment of salaries and other perk (arrears of bonus, D.A. and IR) to the workers of DTC have not been made in time since 1992;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry on non-payment of dues to the DTC workers by the management;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) DTC has been incurring heavy losses for the last several years and its internal resources are not sufficient to liquidate its committed liabilities in time. As a result, there has been some delay in disbursing salaries to the employees. However, all the employees of DTC have been paid their salary upto the Month of June, 1996 but due to paucity of funds, the employees have not been paid arrears of bonus, D.A. and interim relief. The Government has taken various measures to provide sufficient funds to DTC depending upon the availability of budgetary resources to enable them for timely disbursement of salaries to its employees and DTC is also making all out efforts to generate more funds to enable it to liquidate its committed liabilities.