

services under the Government of India is being implemented as per instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training from time to time.

(b) Vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are filled along with other vacancies. However, the Central Government has been launching Special Recruitment Drive from time to time to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply given to part (c) above.

National Commission for Backward Classes

1793. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the mandate of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC);

(b) the number of castes, sub-castes, communities etc. notified on the advice tendered by NCBC till March, 2014;

(c) the comparative powers of NCBC vis-a-vis the National Commission for Scheduled Castes; and

(d) the extent to which the NCBC has achieved its objectives since its inception in 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) The mandate of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) is to examine requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the lists and hear complaints of over-inclusion or under-inclusion of any backward class in such lists and tender such advice to the Central Government as it deems appropriate as per Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993.

(b) 2048 castes/sub-castes/communities have been included in the Central List of OBCs based on advice tendered by NCBC since its inception.

(c) Both the National Commission for Backward Classes and National Commission for Scheduled Castes have all the powers of a Civil Court trying a suit.

(d) The NCBC has achieved its objectives to a great extent since it has been functioning as per its mandate laid down in the NCBC Act, 1993.

Lauching of Mars Orbiter Mission Spacecraft

1794. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's very own Mars excursion - a journey of over 385 million