

'Divyang' for the people with disabilities

1552. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to use the term 'Divyang' for the people with disabilities, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to get a legal base for the use of this word?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) At present the phrase “person with disability” is used in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The Government has proposed to use the word “Divyang” for the persons with disabilities in consultation with States/UTs and stakeholders. Relief to the disabled is a State subject by virtue of entry 9 of the State list of the Constitution of India. Accordingly with a view to take forward the use of the word “Divyang” for the persons with disabilities and also to give legal base for use of this word, the Government has initiated consultation with stakeholders including the States/UTs.

Recommendation of NCBC to lower standards for OBCs

1553. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for the Backward Classes (NCBC) recommended to reduce qualifying standards for OBCs to fill up the 27 per cent mandatory reservation for OBCs in employment; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendation and the action contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Backward Classes in its report on Creamy Layer dated 27.02.2015 has recommended that the OBC candidates should be judged by relaxing the qualifying standards to ensure that all the 27% seats available for OBCs are filled up at par with SC/ST candidates.

Department of Personnel and Training have provided relaxation in age limit in examinations and interview for OBCs in order to fulfil their quota as in case of SC/ST candidates.