

Modification in rules for lateral entry in IFS

494. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to modify its recruitment procedures to introduce lateral entries in the Indian Foreign Services (IFS);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for the introduction of such a policy and the eligibility criteria envisaged by Government for including such recruits who have not passed any examination conducted by the UPSC; and

(c) if not, the measures being taken by Government to fill up the posts that are lying vacant in the Indian Foreign Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) There is no plan to modify the recruitment procedures of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

(c) Vacancies arising in Indian Foreign Service are filled by direct recruitment through Civil Services Examination and promotions from feeder cadres. Ministry of External Affairs also takes officers from other Departments/Ministries on deputation.

Demand for increase in Haj quota for States

495. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and other States have demanded to increase Haj quota for their States, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what steps the Ministry is taking to accommodate the demands of these States so that more pilgrims could be sent for Haj pilgrimage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) A number of requests have been received from various States and Union Territories for increase in Haj quota for Haj-2016. However, the entire quota allocated to Haj Committee of India by the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Haj-2016 has already been distributed amongst the States and Union Territories on the basis of their respective Muslim population, based on the 2011 Census figures.

From Haj-2013, Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has reduced the overall Haj quota for pilgrims from foreign countries, including from India, by 20% and