

**Eligibility criteria for senior citizens**

2215. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to adopt uniform age criteria of sixty years to define senior citizens for addressing the anomalies in extending benefits to the elderly people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Adoption of Uniform age criteria of sixty years for benefits of senior citizens being extended by different organisations (such as Airlines, Insurance companies, State Governments, etc.) is under consideration in this Ministry, pursuant to the recommendation of the Group of Secretaries on Education and Social Development, Constituted by the Government. It is proposed to bring suitable amendment to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act in this regard.

**Inclusion of new castes in OBC category**

†2216. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the dates when new castes were included in OBC category during last three years under the policy of providing 27 per cent reservation in services to the OBCs as per Mandal Commission and whether they are being provided reservation within the pre-determined quota itself;

(b) if not, whether the Ministry would consider raising number of castes in it; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.