complaint, even if, at any time, the identity of the complainant gets revealed through any source.

(b) to (d) The Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 (No. 17 of 2014) establishes mechanism to receive complaints relating to disclosure on any allegation against any public servant of corruption or wilful nuisance of power or wilful misuse of discretion and is thus not applicable to private sector. The said Act has been notified on 12th May, 2014. In terms of provision of sub-section (3) of section 1 of the Act, the provisions of the Act shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint. No such notification has been made by the Government for the reason that the Act requires amendments aimed at safeguarding against disclosures affecting sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, etc., before it is brought into force. To make these amendments to the Act, the Government introduced the Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in the Lok Sabha on 11th May, 2015 which was passed by the Lok Sabha on 13th May, 2015 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha. The Bill has since lapsed upon the dissolution of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha. The Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill is not part of the approved Government legislative business of the current session of the Parliament.

Reservation in jobs for SCs/STs

†2828. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued by Government to follow the provisions regarding reservation strictly in jobs for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the benefit of the reservation is being provided equally to all targeted categories, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for an effective implementation of the provision of reservation with respect to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Guidelines

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

have been issued from time to time to all Ministries/Departments to strictly observe and implement the reservation policy of the Government. Instructions also provide that negligence or lapse in following the orders relating to the reservation policy are to be viewed seriously and suitable action is to be taken promptly by the concerned authorities in such cases.

Reservation is provided to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to the extent of 15%, 7.5% and 27%, respectively, in case of direct recruitment on all India basis by open competition. In case of direct recruitment on all India basis, otherwise than by open competition, the percentage fixed is 16.66% for Scheduled Castes, 7.5% for Scheduled Tribes and 25.84% for Other Backward Classes.

As per the DoPT guidelines dated 04.01.2013, all Ministries/Departments are required to nominate Liaison officers at least in the rank of Deputy Secretary, and Special Reservation Cells for enforcement of orders related to reservation in posts and services of the Central Government are also to be set up.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment Committee

2829. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has notified the creation of a Prevention of Sexual Harassment Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of sexual harassment that have been reported and investigated by the Committee since its inception; and

(d) steps taken by the Ministry to ensure a harassment free workspace for its employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the three Departments of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, namely, the Department of Personnel & Training (DoP&T), Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAR&PG) and Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoP&PW) have constituted an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) each to inquire into complaints of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace. The ICC constituted by these Departments comprise (i) Presiding Officer who is a woman