

Reservation Quota

*69. SHRIMATI GEETA
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI SOBHANADREES
WARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Southern States where reservation system has been prevailing even before the implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations the quota level has been higher than 50 percent ceiling as decided by the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the names of these States and the reservation quota prevailing at present therein;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to make necessary amendments to the Constitution enabling such State Governments to maintain the status-quo in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Two Southern States namely Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have reservation quota in excess of 50%. It is 69% in Tamil Nadu. In Karnataka, the total reservation quota was 68%. This has been increased to 73% on 19th April, 1994 and to 88% from 25th July, 1994.

(c) and (d). The issue is under examination.

(e) The Tamil Nadu Government forwarded Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Schedules Casts, Scheduled Tribe (Reservation of seats in educational institution and appointments of posts in the services under the State) Bill, 1993 for retaining 69% reservation in their State for the President's assent. The President has given his assent to the Bills on 19th July, 1994.

Blood Donors

*70. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'HIV-infected blood donors on rise' appearing in the, Indian Express, of June 27, 1994;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the reasons for such alarming increase in HIV infection;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check these blood donors;

(e) whether the Government propose to amend Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to ensure safe supply of blood; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE. (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government are aware that transmission of the infection through the blood route has registered a marginal increase and have been taking all the necessary steps to ensure maximum blood-