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Reservation for S.C. and S.T. for Staff Artistes

3809. SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many Staff Artistes categories are covered under reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Doordarshan;

(b) how many staff Artistes categories are not covered under reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; reasons for not covering these categories under reservation rules; and

(c) what steps were taken by the Ministry or Doordarshan to extend the reservation rules to the categories not covered under reservation rules?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c). Reservation already exists for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in seven non-creative categories of Staff Artistes in Doordarshan. The remaining 38 categories are creative categories in filling which merit has to be the main criterion. It was decided that the question of exemption of such creative categories of posts from the reservation orders should be taken up after the new staffing pattern of Doordarshan Kendras has been finalised on the basis of SIU's recommendations. The new staffing pattern is now under consideration.

Proposals from Tamil Nadu for Declaration of Areas as Backward

3810. SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu State have sent proposals recently for the declaration of areas in the State as backward;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to speed the declaration of the areas as backward?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Utilisation of Old Aircraft Engines for Generation of Electricity

3811. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to utilise old aircraft engines to generate electricity is under consideration of Government as the quickest way of overcoming the power crisis in key industrial cities like Bombay and Calcutta;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). An Experts' Committee set up by the National Committee on Science & Technology had examined the possibility of adapting time-expired aero-engines for power generation keeping in view the likelihood of aero-engines becoming available within the country on retirement from aviation use. It had recommended that further R&D work was necessary before these aero-engines could be adapted for power generation. The research would cover work on alternative fuels that could be used instead of high cost petroleum de-