

**Aso's Examination in A.F.H.Q.**

- 1838. SHRI A.U. AZMI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that when the AFHQ Stenographers Service Rules were framed and introduced, it did not carry any clause of filling up of fifty per cent of the Senior P.As posts through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination to be held by the UPSC consisting of 5 written papers and a test in stenography;

(b) if so, what were the circumstances which led to the insertion of this clause in the service rules to the most disadvantage of Majority of stenographers in that service;

(c) what steps have been taken to start holding of the ACSO's examination in AFHQ on the lines of SOs in the CSS to bring about parity between both the services of AFHQSS and CSSS, besides inducting intelligent, energetic and uprising staff at higher levels ; and

(d) steps visualised to improve the service career prospects of the stenographers which are far too meagre and inadequate and stenographers stagnate in the same grade for as long as nearly three decades to entire service career?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A provision for Limited Departmental Competitive Examination in Cental Secretariat Stenographers Service was made in 1973. A similar provision was made in AFHQ Stenographer Service as this Service is modelled broadly on the pattern of Central Secretariat Stenographers Service. The examination which is limited to the serving

individuals, provides them an opportunity for early promotion to higher grade on the basis of merit. It has also helped in improving efficiency in the Service.

(c) No provision for a Limited Departmental Competitive Examination was made in the AFHQ Civil Service when it was constituted in 1968; it was considered that the method of filling the post of ACSO by promotion of Assistants on merit-cum-seniority basis ensured selection of suitable persons and examination was not necessary. Government have considered from time to time the desirability of introducing a Limited Departmental Examination and decided against it after taking a balanced view of the interests of Assistants and Stenographers Grade 'C'.

(d) There is stagnation at present in Grade 'C' of the AFHQ Stenographers Service. The question regarding improvement of their career prospects is being examined by the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms in which the Ministry of Defence is also participating.

**Requirement of the spares of Aircraft Manufactured by Hal**

1839. SHRI RAJNATH SONKER : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is unable to meet the requirement of spares of the aircraft manufactured by it for the Navy, Indian Air Force and the Army and State Governments resulting in the grounding of large number of aircrafts;

(b) if so, what is the state of affairs of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and steps taken to revamp and revitalise it;