

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7961

ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000

APPOINTMENT OF SC/ST OFFICERS AS AMBASSADORS HIGH COMMISSIONERS

PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR;RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- a] whether `SC/ST Parliamentarians` in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on December 17, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998 have demanded placement of SCs/STs Officers as Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Heads of Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad;
- b] is so, whether the action has been taken thereon;
- c] if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; d] the number of posts of Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Heads of Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad and the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs working against such posts as January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000; and e] the percentage of SCs/STs officers occupying the posts mentioned above as compared to the total posts as on January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA]

a, b & c] Yes Sir. The representations were forwarded by the Prime Minister's Office to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to be followed up by them with the other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for implementation.

d] The total number of Indian Missions/Posts functioning abroad on 1.1.1996 was 152 and on 1.1.2000 was 157. The number of persons belonging to the SC/ST category working against these posts on 1.1.1996 was 25 [SC-18; ST-7] and on 1.1.2000 was 22 [SC-13; ST-9]

e] The percentage of SCs/STs officers occupying the posts mentioned above as compared to the total posts as on January 1, 1996 was SCs -12% & STs - 5% and on January 1, 2000 was SCs - 8% & STs - 6%.