

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1209
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
APPOINTMENT OF HIGH COMMISSIONERS AMBASSADORS
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the country-wise details of the High Commissioners/Ambassadors appointed during the last three years including the officers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes;
- (b) the criteria fixed for selection of High Commissioners/Ambassadors; and
- (c) the total number of IFS officers and the number of SC/ST/OBC officers among them as on date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Appointment of 116 High Commissioners/Ambassadors in the following countries have been made by the Government during the last three years:Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, China, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, Ghana, Jamaica, Malaysia, Maldives, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia. Out of the above, a total of 18 High Commissioners/Ambassadors belong to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), which includes 12 officers appointed to Algeria, Belarus, Finland, Oman, Panama, Slovak Republic, Turkey, Zimbabwe, Brunei Darussalam, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea and Trinidad and Tobago belonging to SC category, and 6 High Commissioners/Ambassadors appointed to Botswana, Bulgaria, North Korea, Lebanon, Mozambique and Zambia belonging to ST category. Recruitment of officers on the basis of Other Backward Classes

(OBC) category commenced from the year 1994 and consequently officers of OBC category have as yet not attained the requisite seniority for being appointed as High Commissioners/Ambassadors.

b) Indian High Commissioners/Ambassadors are appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of the Prime Minister. These appointments are decided on the basis of a number of criteria, which include, inter alia, their seniority, background, relevant experience and an overall suitability to the tasks and the post.

c) As on date, the total number of IFS officers in the Ministry is 599, out of which number of officers belonging to SC, ST and OBC are 82, 45 and 48 respectively.