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Title: Need to review the selection process for recruitment of senior trainee pilot in Air India in view of rejection of some candidates belonging to reserved category.

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): Madam, during recruitment of Senior Trainee Pilot (P2) with A320 endorsement in Air India, 78 candidates were selected for appointment - 11 SC and 6 OBC candidates have been selected in general merit category and there are still vacancies in 14 SC, 12 ST and 87 OBC seats. As per MHA order O.M. No. 1/1/70-Estt.SCT, 25th July 1970, "If SC/ST candidates obtained, according to normal position in examination for direct recruitment less vacancies than the number reserved for them, selecting authorities have discretion, in order to make up the deficiency, to select candidates belonging to these communities who may have obtained low place in the examination, provided that such authorities are satisfied that the minimum standard necessary for maintenance of efficiency of administration has been reached in their cases."

DOPT Brochure Reservation SC/ST/OBC Clause 3.8 states, "to the extent the number of vacancies reserved for SC, ST and OBC cannot be filled on the basis of general standard, candidates belonging to these communities will be taken by relaxed standard to make up deficiency in reserved quota, subject to fitness of these candidates for appointment to the posts in question."

Psychometric test, on the basis of which most candidates were rejected, was not part of advertisement issued by Air India and was arbitrarily added to the selection process to accommodate favoured candidates. Rejected candidates are from backward sections and have taken loans from banks to complete their training and hence should be accommodated....(*Interruptions*)