

I would like to reiterate that Government firmly believes in settling industrial disputes through discussions. Government has considered with sympathy and understanding the genuine demands of the workers. The offer made by Government is a fair one and it is regretted that the Federations have led the workers into an illegal strike. I would also like to reiterate my hope that the workers who have gone on the strike would find their way to discontinue it. The doors of Government for discussions are always open.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We want a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: We will see.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): You allow a discussion on this. We are also distressed by the fact that the negotiations broke down. But he is not telling the whole facts. It is not true that the question of a parity with the public sector is the main issue involved.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North): The Government should be a model employer.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Do you intend to hold any further talks?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT. I have said that the doors for discussions are always open.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Open means what?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Open means you can come at any time. Just for the facility of the union leaders, I had been working in my office for 24 hours. They can come at any time.

11.57 hrs.

STATEMENT RE LIBERALISATION OF ORDERS FOR IMPROVING REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES COMMUNITIES IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POSTS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): From time to time, Government have taken a number of decisions to protect and promote the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of employment in Government. Government have, to a large extent, fulfilled the mandate of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

Today, I have great pleasure in announcing two decisions which are intended to benefit those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

- (i) There will be a ban on dereservation in all cases of direct recruitment in Groups A, B, C & D vacancies. This implies that if sufficient number of suitable Scheduled Castes and/or Scheduled Tribes candidates are not available against the share of vacancies reserved for them, the shortfall will not be filled up by general category candidates and such vacancies will be kept unfilled as backlog vacancies till suitable Scheduled Castes and/or Scheduled Tribes candidates become available. In future, dereservation may be permitted only in Group A vacancies, in rare and exceptional circumstances and only after obtaining the approval of the Ministry of Personnel.
- (2) The present restriction that reservation in promotion would be appli-

[Sh. P. Chidambaram]

12.00 hrs.

cable only to those grades/posts where the element of direct recruitment does not exceed 66-2/3% will be liberalised by revising the ceiling to 75% thus bringing more grades/posts within the ambit of the reservation orders.

I am sure that this House will welcome these decisions.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the next item i.e. Calling Attention. Dr. C.P. Thakur...

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Sir, with your permission, I will just take half-a-second. There is a reservation which has been made for the ex-Servicemen also. I will urge the hon. Minister, through you Sir, to safeguard their interests also in the similar manner.

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Their interests should also be safeguarded in case of categories C&D in the similar way.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Growing incidence of Kala-azar in Bihar and other parts of the country

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The situation arising out of the growing incidence of Kala-azar in Bihar and other parts of the country and the remedial measures taken by the Government in that regard."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): Kala-azar is a major public health problem in the States of Bihar and West Bengal. It is spread by the Sandfly Vector, which is predominantly seen in the Gangetic belt. The population exposed to risk in the endemic areas is about 44 million. The number of cases and deaths reported in the States of Bihar and West Bengal during the last three years is as under:—

	<i>Bihar</i>		<i>West Bengal</i>	
	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1986	14079	47	3718	25
1987	19179	77	4447	10
1988 (prov.)	19639	123	3068	2

During the last two years, the number of Kala-azar cases have increased marginally in Bihar. However, the number of deaths have increased by 60 per cent in Bihar. In West Bengal, the number of cases and deaths have shown a declining trend. Spo-

radic cases have also been reported from Uttar Pradesh, Assam and J&K.

The number of endemic districts have increased from 21 to 27 in Bihar during the last three years. Similarly, the number of