

12.40 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. RESERVATION OF VACANCIES FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED FOR CERTAIN POSTS IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER) : As the House is aware, the question of promoting the employment of the physically handicapped persons has been engaging the attention of the Government of India for some years past. I am happy to inform the House that it has now been possible for this Government to take a decision in the matter.

The following are the salient details of the decision taken by the Government of India:

(i) 1 per cent vacancies shall be reserved each for the blind, the deaf and the orthopaedically handicapped with an over-all ceiling of 3 per cent in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in Central Services and in comparable posts in Government of India Public Sector Undertakings.

(ii) Where candidates belonging to a particular category of handicapped persons are not available or where the nature of work does not technically permit the appointment of a particular category of handicapped persons, *inter se* exchange shall be allowed.

(iii) Where a sufficient number of persons belonging to a given category of the physically handicapped is not available, the unfilled vacancies will be carried forward to the following years.

(iv) There shall be provision for total or partial exemption in certain cases from the obligation to reserve 3 per cent vacancies for the physically handicapped. Such ex-

emptions shall be granted by an Inter-Departmental Committee in the Department of Social Welfare.

(v) It shall be the responsibility of every employing Ministry to identify occupations that can be practised without impairing efficiency by various types of physically handicapped persons with or without the use of special equipment.

(iv) Physically handicapped persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, ex-servicemen and dependents of those killed in action may be given preference for recruitment to group 'C' and 'D' posts in the Central Services and in comparable posts in the Public Sector Undertakings against the reserved quotas for these categories.

I trust that this decision will afford much needed relief to many deserving handicapped candidates and enable them to live as independent and self-reliant members of the community.

12.44 hrs.

FINANCE (NO. 2) BILL, 1977

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING * (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1977-78, be taken into consideration."

The main features of the proposals contained in the Bill have been outlined in my Budget speech. The details of these proposals have been explained in the Explanatory Memorandum circulated to hon. Members along with Budget papers. I do not, therefore, propose to take the time of the House by going over the same ground again.

*Moved with the recommendation of the Vice-President acting as President.