

Agenda Note

Sub : Comments of NCST requested by DoPT on the issue of age relaxation for the SCs, STs and OBCs in case of appointment against unreserved vacancies.

I Proposal in brief

At present SC/ST/OBC candidates selected on their own merit are adjusted against unreserved vacancies. DoPT O.M. No. 36011/1/98-Estt(Res.) dated 1.7.1968 clarified that only such SC/ST/OBC candidates who are selected on the same standard as applied to general candidates shall not be adjusted against reserved vacancies. The OM further clarified that when a relaxed standard is applied in selecting an SC/ST/OBC candidate, for example in the age-limit, the SC/ST/OBC candidates are to be counted against reserved vacancies and only such SC/ST/OBC candidates would be able to compete for unreserved vacancies who are within the age limit prescribed for general category candidates.

DoPT is examining the proposal that the SC/ST/OBC candidates should be given benefit of age relaxation in the matter of appointment to a post irrespective of the fact whether the post is reserved or unreserved. Therefore, DoPT has requested comments of NCST on this issue.

II Implications

The candidates from these communities will have more chances of selection to an unreserved post.

A demand for considering other relaxations to SC/ST/OBC candidates while selection to unreserved post will come.

III Proposed Recommendations of the Commission on the matter.

Since age relaxation is unlikely to render applicants unsuitable for appointments, the Commission may consider to comment in favour of the proposal as it will result in more chances of selection of ST candidates to unreserved posts.