Department of Personnel O.M. No. 13/3/71-Estt. (SCT)
dated 10th September, 1971 to all Ministries etc.

Subject:—Employees belonging to Scheduled Castes—Intimation regarding change of religion to administrative authorities.

The undersigned is directed to say that according to para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 as amended by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1956, no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu or Sikh religion can be deemed to be a member of Scheduled Castes. The rights of a person belonging to a Scheduled Tribe are however, independent of his/her religious faith. Instances have come to notice where Scheduled Caste candidates on adopting a religion other than Hinduism and Sikhism, did not intimate the change in religion to the appointing/administrative authorities and continued claiming/enjoying concessions/benefits admissible to Scheduled Castes. This necessitated withdrawal retrospectively of the concessions enjoyed by them. It has now been decided that in order to avoid such instances, Ministries/Departments etc. of Government of India may in future stipulate in the letter of appointment issued to Scheduled Castes candidates that they should inform about the change of their religion to their Appointing/Administrative authority immediately after such a change. Similarly, the serving Scheduled Caste employees should be instructed to intimate change if any, in their religion immediately, to their Appointing Administrative Authorities. Ministry of Finance etc. are requested to bring these instructions to the notice of all concerned.