

**Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No.1/1/70-Estt.SCT,
dated the 25th July, 1970, to all Ministries/Departments, etc.**

**Subject:—Selection of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates against reserved vacancies—
Relaxation of standards.**

According to the instructions in this Ministry's Office Memorandum No. 8/10/66-Estt. (C) dated the 15th May, 1967, read with Office Memorandum No. 16/17/67-Estt. (C), dated the 8th February, 1968, if Scheduled Caste/Tribe candidates obtained, according to their normal position in the examination for direct recruitment, less vacancies than the number reserved for them, the 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 case. Similarly, in direct recruitment otherwise than by examination, if Scheduled Castes/Tribes candidates obtain, on the basis of the general standard, less vacancies than the number reserved for them, the selecting authorities can, in order to make up the deficiency, select Scheduled Caste/Tribe candidates who may be of a lower standard than candidates of other communities, provided such candidates satisfy the minimum standard necessary for maintenance of efficiency of administration, the extent of relaxation of standard, while judging the suitability of Scheduled Caste/Tribe candidates, both in direct recruitment by examination and otherwise than by examination, is thus at present decided by the selecting authority in the case of each category of post or posts. It has now been decided that, in the case of direct recruitment, whether by examination or otherwise, if sufficient number of Scheduled Caste/Tribe candidates are not available on the basis of the general standard to fill all the vacancies reserved for them, candidates belonging to these communities may be selected to fill up the remaining vacancies reserved for them provided they are not found unfit for such post or posts. Thus, to the extent the number of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes cannot be filled on the basis of the general standard, candidates belonging to these communities will, as at present, be taken by relaxed standard to make up the deficiency in the reserved quota, subject to the fitness of these candidates for appointment to the post/posts in question.

2. Ministry of Finance etc. are requested to bring the above instructions to the notice of all appointing authorities under them including public sector undertakings and statutory, semi-Government and autonomous bodies.
