

No. 25/50/57-Ests(A)
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs

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New Delhi-2, the 15th January 1958.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Participation by Government servants in proselytism-
Instructions regarding -

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The question has been raised whether a specific provision should be added to the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules to prohibit Government servants from taking part in proselytising activities.

2. The Constitution of India is based on the principle of a secular State and expressly prohibits any discrimination in favour of or against any person or classes of persons on religious grounds. It follows that, though servants of the State are entitled in their private lives freely to profess, practise or propagate any religion, they should so conduct themselves in public as to leave no room for an impression to arise that they are likely in their official dealings to favour persons belonging to any particular religion. Such an impression is bound to arise in respect of a Government servant who participates in bringing about or organising conversions from one religion to another and such conduct would be even more reprehensible if, in the process, he makes use, directly or indirectly, of his official position or influence.

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3. As such cases are not likely to be very frequent, it has been decided that no specific provision need be added to the existing Conduct Rules. Nevertheless, participating in proselytising activities or the direct or indirect use of official position and influence in such activities on the part of a Government servant may be treated as good and sufficient reasons for taking disciplinary action against him under the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules.

4. The Ministry of Finance, etc., are accordingly requested to ensure that the contents of this Office Memorandum are brought to the notice of all Government servants serving under their control.

P. Sitaraman

(P. Sitaraman)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To

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All Ministries of the Government of India/Attached and Subordinate Offices of Ministry of Home Affairs.

All Union Territories.

All Officers and Sections in Ministry of Home Affairs.

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