

Copy of letter No. 820-IGSI-73/6479, dated 9th March, 1973 from the Chief Secretary to Government, for Haryana All Heads of Departments, etc. etc.

**Subject :—Policy to be followed in regard to international friendship societies as well as social, cultural or other similar organisations known to be connected with political parties.**

I am directed to refer to the instructions issued by Haryana Government in their letter No. 3130 5GS-69/13240, dated the 13th June, 1969, in which it was mentioned that Government employee should exercise great care and should not join any organisation whether specifically notified as such by the Government or not, if there was the slightest reason to think that the organisation had a political aspect. It was also brought to notice that it is essential that Government employees should not only maintain political neutrality but should also appear to do so and should ensure that no doubts were created about their neutrality in any circumstances. It was to be made clear to the Government employees that any default in this regard would be viewed seriously by Government and would entail severe disciplinary action.

2. This matter has been further considered particularly with regard to the policy to be followed in regard to international friendship societies as well as social, cultural or other similar organisations known to be connected with political parties. It has been observed that associations whose avowed aim is to promote friendly relations between the people of India and any specific foreign country have generally been referred to as international friendship societies. Several such friendship societies exist and function in India as well as in other countries. In respect to these, it has been decided that Government officials should not accept any office in or membership of any such international friendship society nor should they participate in the activities of these societies. Administrative Secretaries and other officers after obtaining prior permission of their Administrative Secretaries may however address such societies on non-controversial matters or on cultural relations between India and the country concerned.

3. In regard to social, cultural or other similar organisations known to be connected with political parties, it has been decided that since it is essential that Civil Servants should not only maintain political neutrality but should also appear to do so and there should be no doubts about their neutrality, a civil servant should keep away from any organisation in regard to which there is the slightest reason to think that it has any political overtones. There are in fact many in which Government have themselves notified committee organisations as political for the purposes of the Government Employees' Conduct Rules and it would be obviously a breach of discipline for any civil servant to associate himself with such an organisation. As, however, there are many other organisations which have not been so notified by Government as political, it is equally necessary that all civil servants should refrain from associating themselves in any manner with such organisations also. In this connection reference is also invited to rule 5(1) of all India Services (Conduct Rules, 1968/Punjab Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1966 (as adopted in the State of Haryana) which is to the effect that "no member of the Service/Government employee shall be a member of, or be otherwise associated with, any political party or any organisation which takes part in politics nor shall he take part in, subscribe in aid of, or assist in any other manner, any political movement or activity".

4. I am to request that the above instructions may be carefully noted and also brought to the notice of all concerned for strict compliance. It may be added that any default in this regard will be viewed seriously by Government and will entail severe disciplinary action.

5. The receipt of this letter may please be acknowledged.