

Copy of letter No. 15003-G-55/75504, dated 23.11.1955 from Shri Nawab Singh Esquire, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to Govt. Pb. to All Heads of Departments in the Punjab and the Registrar, Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh, Commissioners of Ambala and Jullundur Divisions, District and Sessions Judges and All Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab.

Subject :—Relaxation of age-limit for entry into Government Service for certain categories of married women.

I am directed to say that Government had for sometime under consideration on the question of relaxing age limit for entry into service under the Punjab Government for married women of the under-mentioned categories, provided they are otherwise eligible for the posts in question :—

- (i) Widows,
- (ii) Women who are legally separated from their husbands or have been divorced.
- (iii) Women whose husbands have been ordered by Civil or Criminal Courts to pay maintenance to them.
- (iv) Women who have because of their desertion, been living separately from their husbands for more than two years ; and
- (v) Women whose husbands have re-married.

Government consider that the lot of such women is generally very hard in the present stage of our social development, they should be specially provided for to enable them to earn bread for themselves and their unfortunate children if any. As such women may quite often be above the prescribed minimum age for entry into Government service when they find it necessary to seek employment under Government it has been decided that the maximum age limit in the case of such women should be raised to 35 years.

2. I am to add that a women falling in category (iv) above will be required to submit with her application an affidavit to the effect that she has been deserted by her husband and has been living separately from him for more than two years and this affidavit should be countersigned by two respectable persons such as members of the Legislature, Local Bodies including Panchayats and the Bar. Where however, a woman has re-married on the relevant date she would not be eligible for the above concession in the matter of age.