

Copy of Circular letter No. 14195—4 GS-61/42457, dated the 28th November, 1961 from the Chief Secretary to Government Punjab, to all Heads of Departments etc. etc.

*Subject : —Deletion of religion, caste, etc. from all Government records.*

I am directed to address you on the subject noted above and to inform you that the question of omitting from all Government records including application forms of Punjab Public Service Commission, Subordinate Services Selection Board and Employment Exchanges as also of Schools, Colleges and Institutions technical and non-technical gradation lists, etc. any mention about religion, namely Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Muslim etc. as also of caste/sub-caste has been considered by Government. In the interests of national integration it has been decided that all entries relating to religion, caste or sub-caste should be omitted from all Government records with effect from 1st January, 1962. In order, however, to ensure that no complications arise at a latter stage in the case of persons having the same name in the cadre of the same service, the practice of adding figures 1, 2, 3, and so on against their names should be introduced.

2. Exceptions (1) In the case of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes, it will however, be necessary to mention their castes in the application forms for the reason that they are entitled to certain specified privileges in matters of recruitment to Government service and for admission into schools and colleges. This practice will of course continue till such time as such reservation are allowed to members of these caste and classes.

3. Where a caste or sub-caste is part of the regular name of a person and he or his family calls himself by this it may of course be included as his name or part of it.

4. As these instructions will come into operation with effect from 1st January, 1962, I am to request you to make arrangements to ensure that in gradation list to be published for the next year and in all other records, applications forms etc. the use of religion, caste and sub-caste is omitted except where it is necessary in the case of scheduled castes etc.

5. The receipt of this letter should be acknowledged.