

Copy of Punjab Government Circular letter No. 12897-G-54/1775, dated 18th January, 1955 from the Chief Secretary to Governments, Punjab, addressed to all Heads of Department etc., etc.

Subject:—Prohibition of plural marriages by Government servants.

I am directed to say that in the I. A. S. (Recruitment) Rules, 1954, recently published, the Government of India have provided that no person who has more than one wife living shall be eligible for appointment to the service; provide that the Central Government may if satisfied, that there are special grounds for doing so, exempt any person from the operation of this provision. In the same way, it has been laid down in the I.A.S. (Conduct) Rules, 1954, that no Government servant who has a wife living shall contract another marriage without first obtaining the permission of the Government of India, notwithstanding that such marriage is permissible under the personal law for the time being applicable to him. The Government of India have also decided that the principles embodied in the above provisions contained in the all India Service Rules should also govern the recruitment and conditions of Service of other Central Government Servants and they propose to include a provision similar to that in the I.A.S. (Conduct), Rules, 1954 referred to above in their revised Government Servants Conduct Rules and the other provision in the various service rules. Meanwhile they have decided that these principles should be observed as if the relevant rules had in fact been amended in this respect.

2. The Punjab Government have after due consideration decided to make similar provision for governing the recruitment and condition of service of State Government servants and to amend the Government Servants Conduct Rules as well as the relevant rules in this behalf. Naturally, in respect of such Government servants, the requisite permission for remarriage would be of the State Government. Since all this will take time, it has been decided that pending formal incorporation of these provisions in the relevant rules, the principles thereof should be observed as if the relevant rules had in fact been amended in this sense. *The decision may kindly be made known to all existing employees and effect may be given to it forthwith.*