

Copy of letter No. 8/64-AIS. III, dated the 14th January, 1965, from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs New Delhi-II, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of all State Governments except Orissa and Nagaland.

*Subject :—All India Services Conduct Rules, 1954—interpretation.*

I am directed to state that recently a question was referred to the Government of India whether wives of All India Services Officers, should be permitted to enter into business or become partners in firms of a commercial nature.

2. After a careful consideration, Government of India are of the opinion that even though the wife of an officer may intend to undertake business activity from funds entirely at her own disposal this legal "separation" between the officer and his wife, may not be fully acceptable or tenable in the public eye, who would be prone to cast aspersions on the officer and the office that he holds. Apart from this, the nature of duties of all India Services Officer is such that he may exercise influence in varying spheres of governmental activity, depending upon the post that he holds from time to time. The State Government on their part may suffer the difficulty of precluding the services of such an officer from departments which might bring him into contact with the business activities of his wife in his official capacity. Even if the officer conducts his affair in absolutely honest manner and keeps his conduct above reproach, the chances of allegations of direct or indirect abuse of his official position, cannot be ruled out.

3. I am to request that while dealing with such request from the All India Services Officers, the State Governments may keep in mind the views expressed above.