

No. F.70/17/61-Ests(A)  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi-11, the 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1961  
17<sup>th</sup> Agrahayana, 1883.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub:- Government servants' role in the  
eradication of untouchability.

The undersigned is directed to say that at the meeting of  
Central Advisory Board for Harijan Welfare held on the 27th April,  
1961, the following recommendations were made:-

The Central Government <sup>may</sup> impress upon all its servants and  
request State Governments to do likewise:-

- (a) That severe notice shall be taken of <sup>the</sup> practice of  
untouchability in Government Offices and by  
Government servants; and
- (b) That the police and the magistracy have a special  
obligation to enforce the provisions of the  
Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, and it is the duty  
of all Government servants to help them in the enforcement  
of the Act and in creating the necessary climate to remove  
untouchability from the mind of the orthodox section of  
the community.

The Government have accepted these recommendations.

It is specifically brought to the notice of all the  
Government servants that Article 17 (Part III - Fundamental Rights)  
of the Constitution declares that "Untouchability" is abolished and  
forbids its practice in any form, the practice of untouchability has  
also been made an offence by the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955.  
If any Government servant is guilty of the practice of untouchability  
in any form, he will be liable to prosecution and such conduct on  
his part will constitute a sufficient ground for imposing suitable  
penalty prescribed under the appropriate Control and Discipline Rules.  
Government expects its employees not only to observe strictly the  
law in force but also to set an example to others in the matter  
of complete elimination of the practice of untouchability in any  
form.

In so far as persons serving in the Indian Audit and Accounts  
Departments are concerned, this Office Memorandum issued in  
consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

( B. D. JAYAL )  
DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA.

To

All \*Ministries of the Govt. of India, etc. etc.

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Dated the 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1961.  
17<sup>th</sup> Agrahayana, 1883.

Copy to:-

All Union Territory Administrations.

All Attached and Subordinate offices of Ministry of Home Affairs.

All officers and sections of Ministry of Home Affairs.

*B.D. Jayal*

( B.D. JAYAL )  
DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

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