

five years. As a further incentive, there are no processing charges, no pre-payment charges/penalty and a free insurance cover is to be provided to the borrower for the entire amount of outstanding loan. The package is presently available till 31.12.2009.

Reservation for physically handicapped persons

*291. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentages of reservation for physically handicapped persons in each of the category of posts in Central Government offices and Central Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the total number of posts reserved for physically handicapped persons in Central Government offices and PSUs, separately, during each of the last three years and the number of them filled up; and

(c) the reasons for not filling up the remaining posts and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Three per cent vacancies in all Groups of posts in case of direct recruitment and three per cent vacancies in Groups C and D posts in case of promotion are reserved for persons with disabilities of which one per cent each is reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision, (ii) hearing impairment and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability.

As per information received from 68 Ministries/Departments, 1866 vacancies were earmarked reserved for persons with disabilities during 2005 of which 862 were filled up. In the year 2006, as per information received from 58 Ministries/Departments, 1615 vacancies were earmarked reserved of which 556 were filled up and in the year 2007, as per information received from 53 Ministries/Departments, 1135 vacancies were earmarked reserved of which 378 were filled up. Information in respect of public sector undertakings is not maintained centrally.

Some vacancies remain unfilled for reasons like non-availability of suitable candidates for the posts, time gap between the notification of vacancies and their filling up etc.

Assessment of RTI Act

*292. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made to assess the working of the Right to Information (RTI) Act;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the general public faces undue hardship in getting the information within the stipulated time; and

(d) if so, the mechanism proposed to be developed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) A study has been conducted through an independent organization to assess the key issues and constraints in implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The study points out that there is inadequate planning by the public authorities in regard to supply of information; awareness about the Act in rural areas is much less than in urban areas; awareness amongst women is much less than men; the gap in implementation of the Act is because of lack of clear accountability in respect of various functionaries etc. In this regard, the study recommended measures for improving awareness on right to information; improving convenience in filing information requests; improving efficiency of the Information Commissions, enhancing accountability and clarity of various stakeholders, etc.

The Act provides for imposition of penalty on the public information officer in case of delay in supply of information in time. It ensures timely supply of information. The Government has issued various guidelines for different stakeholders which have enabled the information seekers to get information as per provisions of the Act.

Annual growth rates of States

†*293. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2259 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2008 and state:

(a) the details of annual growth rate of those States which are at the bottom of the list in terms of economic and social indices;

(b) the details of Central assistance given to these States under various legislations for correction of imbalance since year 2004-05, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the names of sectors and growth rate achieved as a result of Central assistance, in comparison to the period between 1998-2003, and the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The annual growth rates of states that are at the bottom of the list in terms of economic indicator (measured in terms of per capita income) and social indices (measured in terms of literacy rate and infant mortality rate) is given below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.