

Government has already signed such agreements with Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Hungary, Denmark and Czech Republic. Agreements with Canada, Korea and Norway have been finalized and will be signed shortly. Discussions with Sweden, Australia, USA and Japan are being pursued.

Complaints of NRIs on Flight Rates

2030. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had received complaints from NRIs regarding the hike in flight rates during vacations;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has taken this issue with concerned parties to give relief to NRIs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Complaints from NRIs have been received from time to time regarding the hike in flight rates during vacations. However, Airline fares are not regulated by the Government and airlines themselves decide fares based on the market conditions, revenue management needs and competition in the aviation sector.

Policy for selection of Information Commissioners

2031. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Information Commissioners are expected to retire shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any transparent policy has been formed for the selection of the Information Commissioners at Centre and States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps that are being taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Information Commissioner and two Information Commissioners of the Central Information Commission are retiring during 2010-11.

(c) to (e) Selection for the post of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners is made by a committee headed by the Prime Minister (for Central Information Commission) or the Chief Minister of the State (for a State Information Commission) as per provisions of Section 12(3) or Section 15(3) of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Area welfare officers in Government colonies

2032. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the Area Welfare Officers in various residential colonies for Government servants in New Delhi, area wise;

(b) the criteria for appointment of Area Welfare Officers;

(c) the reasons for exclusion of Chanakyapuri Officer's residential colony in the matter of appointment of Area Welfare Officers; and

(d) the steps being taken to appoint in Area Welfare Officer for Chanakyapuri?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The particulars of Area Welfare Officers, area-wise in New Delhi Residential Colonies for Government servants is enclosed as Statement-I (See below).

(b) Guidelines/Criteria for selection of Area Welfare Officers is given in the Statement-II (See below).

(c) and (d) No Officer has applied for nomination as Area Welfare Officer for Chanakyapuri.