

(a) whether visually impaired candidates are eligible for induction into the Indian Administrative Service;

(b) whether because of denial of their claims, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) had to intervene and order their induction;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to implement the CAT decision; and

(d) whether there are any more deserving disabled candidates for induction into IAS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Civil Services Examination (CSE) Rules, 2010 *inter-alia*, provide that partially blind candidates are eligible for appointment into IAS.

(b) to (d) The Orders of the CAT Principal Bench in various OAs are under consideration in consultation with Department of Legal Affairs.

#### **Proposal to amend RTI**

†830. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received proposal from Government and non-Government sources for amendment in Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is considering to enforce these proposals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) The Central Government has received some suggestions/communications suggesting amendments to the Right to Information Act. These include enlargement of the scope of exemptions from disclosure of information, rejection of vexatious and frivolous requests etc. It has, however, been decided that amendment to the Act, if any, shall be made after discussion with various stakeholders.

#### **Loss due to not imposing penalties in RTI cases**

831. SHRI S. THANGAVELU:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information commissioners across the country have caused a

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

loss of Rs. 86 crore during 2009-10 by not imposing penalties in cases where they ought to have done so as per provisions of RTI Act;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the loss of Rs. 86 crore is only the loss on account of not imposing penalty in cases of delay in providing information and there are seven more provisions to impose penalties that were not taken into account; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Some organizations have conducted surveys/studies relating to Right to Information from time to time. One such survey/study alleges that the Information Commissioners have caused loss to the exchequer by not imposing penalty in cases where they ought to have done so. In absence of information regarding objectivity of the surveying organization, research methodology, survey design, scheme for data collection and its verification etc., it is not considered prudent to comment on their findings. The Central Government is of the view that the Information Commissions are in a better position to decide imposition of penalty in a particular case or otherwise. It is not considered desirable intervene in the functioning of the Information Commissions, which is of a Judicial/Quasi-Judicial nature.

#### **Letters to Ministers on discretionary powers**

832. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoPT has written a letter to all Ministries, asking them to provide details of discretionary powers enjoyed by the Ministers and the instances in which such power were used by the Ministers and senior functionaries of the Ministries;

(b) whether DoPT has received the requisite information from all Ministries and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action taken by GoM on corruption on the said information; and

(d) the details of letters received from MPs pending with DoPT for reply for more than 30 days together with the reasons for not replying those letters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) A Group of Ministers was constituted by the Government on 6th January, 2011 to consider measures that can be taken by the Government to tackle corruption. One of the terms of reference of the GoM was for 'relinquishing discretionary powers enjoyed by Ministers at the Centre'. In this context, DOP & T had written a