Guidelines for appointment of RTI Commissioners

*228. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated guidelines for appointment of RTI Commissioners;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof and the eligibility criteria;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has recommended appointment of politicians and persons who have contested the elections as RTI Commissioners; and
- (d) if so, the action the Ministry is taking to desist the State Government of Andhra Pradesh from deviating from the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. In the States, the State Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners are appointed by the Governor on the

recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Chief Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee, the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and a Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.

As per the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner/ Information Commissioners, shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance. The Chief Information Commissioner/Information Commissioners, shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of Legislature of any State or Union Territory, as the case may be, or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

In order to bring more transparency in the process of selection of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, on the directions of the Hon'ble PM, a Search Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary. On 29th October, 2011, the Search Committee invited particulars of persons interested for being considered for the post of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission. By the last date for receipt of particulars, 214 applications were received. Particulars of persons not serving in Government are not required to be forwarded by the State Government. For the selection of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not recommended appointment of politicians and persons, who have contested elections.

State of Malnutrition in India

229. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that recent reports on ugly state of malnutrition in India by the World Bank and Naandi Foundation and HUNGaMA (Hungry and Malnutrition Report) have drawn criticism from all corners of the society;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- whether it is also a fact that the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme has not been targeting children below three years of age; and
- the appropriate steps Government is taking to check malnutrition and to bring in more resources to anganwadi centers, targeting both children and adolescent women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) There is no joint report by World Bank and Naandi Foundation and HUNGaMA on state of malnutrition in India. However, there is a HUNGaMA Survey, 2011 report coordinated by Naandi