rules/instructions of the Government of India.

11. Expenditure on meetings of the NCSrC shall be met from the non-plan budget of the Ministry.

T.R. MEENA, Jt. Secy.

Lack of confidence among Indian Firms

*266 SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Moody's Analytics recently reported that confidence among Indian firms has been crushed by weak demand, elevated interest rates, high inflation and instability;

(b) whether the economic slowdown in India was sharper and more broad-based than anticipated and deeply entrenched across on all manufacturing sectors with industrial output falling for the third time in four months in June by 1.8 per cent; and

(c) if so, the steps that Government proposes to take for focusing on the critical sectors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Moody's observation on the confidence among Indian firms has been a part of their outlook of the Indian economy. Such observations are made by various domestic and international research organisations/agencies from time to time based on specific assumptions and their perception about the economy and do not represent the views of the Government of India. However, the Government considers the concerns expressed by all stakeholders regarding the pace of the country's economic growth, and takes appropriate action, where required.

(b) As per the latest Index of Industrial Production, the manufacturing sector output has declined by 1.8 per cent in June 2012 and by 0.1 per cent during April-June 2012. During April-June, 2012, out of the 22 manufacturing sub-sectors, the growth rate of 14 sectors was positive and only 8 sub-sectors witnessed a negative growth. The slowdown" in manufacturing sector mainly affected textile (apparel); chemical products and capital goods sector.

(c) Government has already taken several confidence building measures for improving the industrial climate and to boost the business sentiment in the country.

The action plan of the Government to revive the economy and industry in particular, *inter-alia*, includes better access to finance for manufacturing sector, fast tracking of large investment projects in the areas of power, petroleum and gas, roads, coal, etc., strengthening of financial and banking sector, reducing the volatility of exchange rate, etc. Certain specific measures taken by the Government, *inter-alia*, include promoting Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector by way of higher allocation of funds, liberalization of capital market to attract off-shore investment, enhancing investment in the infrastructure sector focusing on Public Private Partnerships and introduction of a new National Manufacturing Policy, etc.

Appointment of CICs

*267. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing process/mechanism for appointing Central Information Commissioners (CICs);

(b) whether the process has been notified for public information; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) The RTI Act provides that the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Selection 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.

So far appointment to the posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission has been made five times. In the first four instances, no applications were invited and the selection to the posts was made by the President on the recommendation of Selection Committee headed by the Prime Minister.

In order to bring more transparency in the process of selection of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, the Hon'ble Prime Minister in September, 2011, approved the constitution of a 'Search Committee' headed by the Cabinet Secretary with Principal Secretary to PM, Secretary (HRD), Secretary (Law), Secretary (DOPT) and Chairman (NDDB) as members for empanelling persons of eminence from various spheres as prescribed in the Act. Accordingly, particulars of