

**Rules for selection/appointment of information commissioners**

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

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) is mulling to frame rules about the exact method to be followed for selection and appointment of Information Commissioners;

(b) whether in the absence of such rules, people close to the concerned Governments are getting appointed as Information Commissioners in spite of not being eligible for such posts; and

(c) if so, by when the Government would come out to frame the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As per Section 12(3) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of:—

(i) the Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee;

(ii) the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and

(iii) a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

As per the section 12(5) of the RTI Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner and 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.

As per the existing practice, particulars of persons fulfilling the criteria for appointment as Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission and interested for appointment to the post are invited through open advertisement. A Search Committee has been constituted for recommending panel of names of persons of eminence from various spheres as provided in the Act to the Selection Committee, headed by the Prime Minister.

(c) Does not arise.