

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) A study was conducted during the year 2008-2009 through an independent organization to assess the key issues and constraints in implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The report on the implementation of the RTI Act, 2005 points out that there was inadequate planning by the public authorities in regard to supply of information; awareness about the Act in rural areas was much less than in urban areas; awareness amongst women is much less than men; the gap in implementation of the Act is because of lack of clear accountability in respect of various functionaries etc. In this regard, the study recommended measures for improving awareness on right to information; improving convenience in filing information requests; improving efficiency of the Information Commissions, enhancing accountability and clarity of various stakeholders, etc.

(b) The Government has taken steps to build the capacity of the demand and supply side through training, on-line certificate course, and publication of guides on the Right to Information Act. Awareness Generation has been undertaken through print, electronic, outdoor media and workshops. An RTI Logo has also been designed and propagated widely. Apart from a number of clarificatory orders, the Government has also issued OMs No. 1/18/2007-IR dated 21st September, 2007 and 1/6/2011-IR dated 15.04.2013 impressing upon the public authorities to disclose maximum information proactively so that citizens need not resort to filing of RTI applications to access information available with the public authorities.

#### **Annual RTI conference**

1460. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual RTI conference is scheduled to be held on September 2-4, 2013;

(b) whether it is also a fact that posts of large number of Information Commissioners (ICs) are lying vacant;

(c) if so, the reasons for convening the annual RTI conference in the absence of ICs; and

(d) whether process of appointing ICs have begun and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Annual conference of the Central Information Commission is scheduled to be held on 2nd and 3rd September, 2013 in New Delhi.

(b) and (c) Section 12(2) of the RTI Act, 2005 provides that the Central Information Commission shall consists of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, not exceeding ten, as may be deemed necessary. As on date, apart from Chief Information Commissioner, there are six Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

(d) Yes, Sir. The particulars of persons fulfilling the criteria for appointment as Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission and interested for appointment to the post were invited through advertisement dated 31.05.2013. A Search Committee has been constituted for recommending panel of names from amongst the applicants to the Selection Committee, headed by the Prime Minister.

#### **Recruitment of talented civil servants**

1461. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the action that has been taken by Central Government to recruit extremely talented personnel in cadre like IAS, IPS, IRS, IFS, etc. so that, these talented personnel would execute properly the policies of Government;

(b) the action that has been taken by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to avoid any external influence while recruiting above said cadre and the details thereof; and

(c) whether Central Government intends to depute or recruit officials from State Government in Indian Foreign Services (IFS) as currently State Government officials are not to get IFS cadre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Recruitment to IAS, IPS, IRS, IFS etc. is done through the