

Information Commission in its decision dated 03.06.2013 has held that the political parties namely AICC/INC, BJP, CPI(M), CPI, NCP and BSP are public authorities under Section 2(h) of the RTI Act. The CIC has further directed the presidents, general secretaries of those political parties to designate Public Information Officers and the Appellate Authorities at the headquarters in six weeks time. Further, it directed the presidents and general secretaries of those political parties to comply with the provisions of Section 4(1)(b) of the RTI Act, 2005.

The Government has introduced The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2013 in the Lok Sabha to amend the RTI Act so as to provide that the definition of public authority shall not include any political party registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Action for not implementing reservation policy

†2086. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps or proposes to take any steps for preparing proper action plan for provision of disciplinary action against officers responsible for incorporating a law in ninth schedule of constitution and for not implementing reservation policy of Government for SCs/STs/OBCs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The policy of reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in posts and services of the Central Government's Ministries/Departments and its Attached and Subordinate Offices, Autonomous Organisations, Statutory Bodies and Public Sector Undertakings is being effectively administered through executive instructions. Any deliberate non-compliance of reservation policy of the Government by a Government employee makes him liable for disciplinary action.

Change in selection process for appointment

2087. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to change the selection process for appointment by promotion/selection to the various cadres of All India Services, and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether all the stake holders have been consulted in the matter, and if so, the details thereof along with objection raised against the proposal, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of officers of State civil service cadre and ensure justice to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) It has been approved in principle, to consider a few changes in the scheme of selection process for recruitment to the promotion quota of various cadres of All India Services. As per the existing regulations, the assessment of the suitability of a candidate is made on the basis of his service records. As per the revised scheme, it is proposed to assess the candidate on the basis of four components *i.e.* 'Written Examination', 'Length of Service', 'Assessment of Performance Appraisal Reports' and 'Interview'.

(b) The above decision was taken after consulting the State Governments and the concerned Cadre Controlling Authorities (CCAs *i.e.*, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forest). Further, to implement the scheme, necessary amendments in the concerned rules/regulations are necessary. The State Governments and the CCAs concerned have been consulted on this aspect also. The Central Government has received certain objections from different quarters, such as that the new scheme will be detrimental to the interests of senior State services officers, the officers belonging to the categories of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; it would also undermine the element of experience *viz-a-viz* academic knowledge and would be against the larger public interest as the officers would prefer studying in place of doing public service, etc.

(c) The inputs received in this regard from the State Governments and other quarters will be kept in view in firming up the regulations.

Amount spent on Aadhaar Card

†2088. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme has been launched by Central Government to provide unique identification to people in the country;

(b) if so, the name of the States and places along with amount spent, so far, under this scheme and the details thereof;

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