

member Committee in March, 2014 under the chairmanship of Shri Arvind Varma to look specifically into the issue relating to the nature of the test of knowledge of English language in the Civil Service Examination (CSE) *i.e.* whether it is to be only qualifying or competitive or mixture of both. The said Committee submitted its report to the Government on 31st July 2014. The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination consists of Paper-I and Paper-II of 200 marks each *inter-alia* with a component on 'English Language Comprehension Skills Test' in Paper-II from CSE 2011. The Committee recommended the existing Scheme of Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination to continue but suggested a review of the Scheme every five years.

(b) Several representations have been received from various quarters on issues concerning the Scheme of Examination. These issues were further raised in the last Monsoon Session of Parliament. After due consideration, the Central Government has decided that in the Paper-II of Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, the marks of the question-section on "English Language comprehension skills" are not to be included for gradation or merit, in the CSE 2014. A notification in this regard was issued on 16.08.2014. It has also been decided that candidates who appeared in Civil Services Examination 2011, would be given one more attempt in CSE 2015.

#### **Dilution of provision of RTI**

1336.DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005 have been diluted over the period of time due to various judgements delivered by Central Information Commission and Supreme Court of India, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to bring in any comprehensive amendment to this Act so as to ensure the true letter and spirit with which it was enacted and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Since the enactment of the Right to Information Act in the year 2005, no amendment has been carried out in the Right to Information Act, 2005.

(b) At present, no such proposal is under consideration.

#### **Outsourced manpower in Government**

1337.SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has information on the total strength of outsourced manpower currently deployed in Government of India;

(b) to appreciate the issues related to outsourced manpower is it not necessary that Government update itself on important fact relating to this segment; and

(c) with a view to bringing about greater transparency in their hiring whether Government feels the necessity of issuing comprehensive guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the General Financial Rules, 2005 the respective Ministries/Departments may hire external professionals, consultancy firms or consultants for a specific job or outsource certain services. No centralized data is maintained.

(c) The fundamental principles applicable to all Ministries/Departments regarding engagement of consultants and outsourcing of services are already provided in General Financial Rules 2005. The powers in respect of procurement of services including hiring of consultant(s) have been delegated to respective Ministry/Department through GFR 2005 and service/financial terms and conditions of consultant are governed as per the contract entered by the respective Ministry/Department with the Consultant(s). A Ministry/Department may outsource certain services in the interest of economy and efficiency and it may prescribe detailed instructions for this purpose.

#### **Representation for Central Secretariat Services in Government**

1338.SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the representation of various services at the Director/Deputy Secretary level under the Central Staffing pattern of Government of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are posts earmarked for the Central Secretariat Service at the level of Director/Deputy Secretary, the number of such posts that have been earmarked/reserved; and

(c) whether Government considering the way in which best talent can be brought in at the Director/Deputy Secretary level in Government and if so, whether such earmarking of posts, serves the interests of drawing the best talent available within Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) As per the centralized information available in DOPT, the representation of various services at the Director/Deputy Secretary level under the Central Staffing Scheme of the Government of India is given in Statement (*See below*). It may be mentioned here that the Central Secretariat