

(b) the strength of staff belonging to SC/ST in the Ministry and its organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) The sanctioned strength of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, group wise is as under:

Group	Sanctioned Strength
A	27
B	37
C	37
TOTAL	101

(b) The strength of staff belonging to SC/ST in position in the Ministry and its organizations is as under:

Offices	Group A	Group B	Group C	Total
	SC/ST	SC/ST	SC/ST	SC/ST
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA)	4	8	6	18
Office of the Protector of Emigrants (POEs)	1	5	11	17
Overseas Indian Centres (OIC)	1	--	--	1
TOTAL				36

#### **Backlog under RTI**

551. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the collective backlog in 23 Information Commissions under RTI is about 1.98 lakh as on December 31, 2013;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, along with the details of monthly disposal;

(c) whether the massive backlog in disposal of appeals and complaints is resulting in citizens having to wait for excessively long periods of time to have their appeals and complaints heard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is not centrally maintained.

(c) As far as the Central Information Commission is concerned, the pendency of appeals/complaints as on 31st October, 2014 is 33898.

(d) The Central Information Commission has been granted autonomy in recruitment of staff. Recruitment Rules (RRs) have been notified for all the 14 categories of posts in the Central Information Commission. The Commission is in the process of making appointment to the various posts.

In addition to the above, Government has appointed five more Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission w.e.f. 22nd November, 2013.

The Government has also taken several steps like issue of guidelines for the Central Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities enabling them to supply information/dispose of first appeal effectively resulting in less number of appeals to the Commission.

#### **Establishment of Jan Lokpal**

552. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the establishment of the Jan Lokpal;
- (b) the steps being taken by Government for appointment of the Lokpal, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has fixed any time-line in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the current status of the amendments to be carried out in the Search Committee/ Panel Rules, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) The Central Government, in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) read with clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 59 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, notified the Search Committee (Constitution, Terms and Conditions of appointment of members and the manner of selection of Panel of Names for appointment of Chairperson and Members of Lokpal) Rules, 2014 on 17th January, 2014. A writ petition has been filed by Common