

(c) The Government has taken a decision *vide* its notification dated 16.08.2014 that in Paper II of the Civil Services (Preliminary) examination, the marks of the question-section on “English Language Comprehension Skills” is not to be included for gradation or merit in CSE 2014.

Further, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Puroshottam Agrawal to look into various issues relating to the Hindi translation in Bilingual Question Papers. The committee has submitted its report on 17.9.2014 to UPSC suggesting various measures to make Hindi translation user friendly.

#### **Showcasing of commendable work done during service**

562. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government circulated concept paper to all Ministries proposing to create a platform for retiring employees to volunteer to showcase commendable work done during service, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it would be used as database of useful suggestions and information for the officials in the Department; and

(c) the timeline given for retiring employees and whether it can be done online, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A concept paper to create a platform for retiring employees to showcase significant achievements during their service period has been approved and uploaded on Department's website. This would also create a database of useful suggestions and information. Once this facility is eventually created, retiring employees will be able to submit their outstanding achievements online.

#### **Rise in income inequality**

563. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per report by United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) weaker labour market institutions, inadequate social protection systems, poor-quality education, inadequate access to credit and land and excessive asset concentration has led to a wide income inequality;

- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether the growing share of capital in national income is exacerbating the inequality gap between the top 1 per cent of the population and the poorest 20 per cent; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to reduce poverty and to prevent a rise in income inequality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in its 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2014 - Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity' states that 'at the national level, there has been an increase in income inequality in many major economies in recent decades'. The report has brought out that in Asia-Pacific region, "Widening income gaps across societies and within communities are the consequence of a series of factors, including weaker labour market institutions, inadequate social protection systems, poor-quality education, inadequate access to credit and land and excessive asset concentration.

(b) and (c) Since, the data on distribution of income is not compiled centrally, the data on household consumption expenditure collected by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) could be used as a proxy to capture the economic inequality in terms of consumption expenditure. Based on consumption expenditure data, the Gini coefficient (measuring the inequality between different expenditure classes of the population) in rural areas is observed to be almost same in 2004-05 and 2011-12 at 0.27 and 0.28 respectively. In the urban areas, the Gini coefficient has increased marginally from 0.35 in 2004-05 to 0.37 in 2011-12. From the same data, it is observed that the ratio of average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) of top 1% to bottom 20% of population is 11 times for both the years 2004-05 and 2011-12 in the rural areas. In urban areas, the ratio of MPCE of top 1% to bottom 20% of population has increased from 16 times in 2004-05 to 19 times in 2011-12.

(d) Reduction of economic inequalities has been one of the primary policy objectives of the development planning in India. The Government is implementing a number of programmes to benefit the people at the lower end of the income distribution. This includes Jan Dhan Yojana, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha

Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Swachh Bharat Mission etc. These interventions are expected to yield better results over time in terms of alleviation of poverty, reduction in the gap between rich and poor and overall balanced development in the country.

**Mandatory use of Aadhaar card**

564. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Supreme Court has rejected Government's plea for making Aadhaar mandatory for all schemes;
- (b) whether Supreme Court has refused to give even an interim stay of its order on Aadhaar; if so, Government's action in this regard; and
- (c) the reasons that Government is making Aadhaar mandatory for domestic LPG in spite of Court's orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Aadhaar enrolments are undertaken on a voluntary basis. Hon'ble Supreme Court while hearing a PIL case issued an interim order on 23.09.2013 directing that "no person should suffer for not getting Aadhaar in spite of the fact that some authority had issued a circular making it mandatory". In a subsequent interim order issued on 26.11.2013, the Court impleaded all the States and Union Territories as respondents to give effective directions, and directed that the interim order dated 23.09.2013 will continue.

An interim application filed by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) for modification and clarification of the order of the Supreme Court dated 23.09.2013 is pending, and is currently *sub judice*.

- (c) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) has informed that Aadhaar is not mandatory for modified DBTL scheme re-launched by MOPNG in 54 districts with effect from 15 November, 2014. If an LPG consumer does not possess an Aadhaar, he can opt for receiving subsidy into his bank account, without the use of an Aadhaar.