

(b) Government servants not entitled to travel by air may be permitted to travel by air in s Economy class in the following sectors between:

- (i) Kolkata/Guwahati and any place in NER
- (ii) Kolkata/Chennai/Bhubaneswar and Port Blair
- (iii) Delhi/Amritsar and anyplace in J&K

(c) It is not possible to quantify in exact terms as this would depend on multiple factors like distance between the Headquarters and Kolkata/Chennai/Bhubaneswar, entitlement of class of journey by train, i.e. II Tier AC or III Tier AC etc.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

Power companies under RTI Act

2908. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has covered power companies under Right to Information (RTI) Act; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Right to Information Act is applicable to Public Authorities. A public authority means any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted (a) by or under the Constitution; (b) by any other law made by Parliament; (c) by any other law made by State Legislature; (d) by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government and includes any - (i) body owned, controlled or substantially financed; (ii) non-Government organization substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government.

Further, as per Section 2(f) of the Act, information relating to any private body, which can be accessed by public authority under any other law for the time being in force, is already within the purview of the RTI Act, 2005.

Reduction in retirement age in Haryana

2909. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention have been drawn towards recent decision of Haryana State Government to lower the retirement age of its employees, from 60 to 58 years, if so, Governments response thereto; and

(b) whether Government is considering to fix single retirement age limit policy in all State Government's and PSUs etc. in the country, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The various State Governments are having their own service conditions for their employees.

(b) There is no such proposal at present. Age of retirement in State Governments/ PSUs is decided by respective State Governments and Board of PSUs etc. depending on their requirement.

Submission of on-line applications for examination

†2910. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of this fact that on-line applications are being invited for examinations to be conducted in the country;

(b) if so, the steps to be taken by Government for those deserving candidates who are deprived of applying for such examinations due to lack of internet facility in the remote and far flung rural areas in the country; and

(c) whether directions would be issued by the Government to conduct the future examinations on the line it used to be conducted previously and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) invites applications in on-line mode only, for its examinations. This system of inviting applications on-line was introduced by UPSC in the year 2012. Approximately 30 lakh candidates apply on-line in a year for various examinations conducted by the Commission. So far, no specific complaint has been received by the Commission regarding lack of internet facility in the remote and far flung rural areas in the country.

Further, the Annual Programme of Examinations, is placed in public domain approximately six months in advance for information of the prospective candidates.

Staff Selection Commission provides the facility of applying both on-line and off-line at present.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.