

(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.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Commission takes decision regarding such matters on the basis of the convenience of candidates, the operational requirement of handling lakhs of applications and job requirement for various posts.

#### **Criticism of CBI for various quarters**

2911. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take steps to ensure that the establishment is free of corruption and nepotism in view of widespread criticism by various political parties and even by the judiciary that CBI is a caged parrot and that even its top officials are corrupt;

(b) the steps Government envisages to help CBI regain confidence of the nation;

(c) in what manner Government intends to ensure fairness of CBI in handling cases; and

(d) whether Government protect and maintain federal character of Indian State while deploying CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) CBI functions within an explicit and well-established legal and procedural framework. The CBI derives its legal authority from Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946. Investigation is conducted by CBI as per provisions of Cr.PC and as per instructions contained in the Crime Manual. Government does not interfere with the investigation of cases by the CBI and does not intervene in the judicial functioning of the Courts. The Government, is however, fully committed to curb corruption and has taken several steps to effectively combat corruption which include:

(i) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;

(ii) Enactment of Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act, 2013;

(iii) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting process by the CVC;

(iv) Issue of instructions by the CVC asking the organizations to adopt Integrity Pact in major Government procurement activities; State Governments have also been advised to adopt Integrity Pact in major procurements;

(v) Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedures and systems;