(b) CBI has instituted Gold Medal award for the best Investigating Officer and the Prosecuting Officer of CBI, CBI Day award etc. to reward selected officers to motivate them to pursue excellence in their areas of work. Special Incentive Allowance is also given to CBI officers to attract officers of proven competence and integrity. Further, specialised training is imparted to CBI officers at CBI Academy as well as at IIM Bengaluru to improve their capabilities and efficiency.

Age relaxation in CSAT

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

(a) whether any representations were received for relaxation in age limit and to appear in regional languages for the Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) conducted by UPSC for all India services, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any committee has been constituted on this issue, if so, the recommendations thereof;

(c) whether choice to give answers in regional languages in the Main Examination would be considered to make it more representational; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR.JITENDRA SINGH) : (a)and (b) The Central Government has received various representations on issue concerning the Scheme of Civil Services Examination (CSE) including for relaxation in maximum age limit and setting of Question papers in the regional languages in the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination. It has been decided to constitute an Expert Committee to comprehensively examine various issues raised from time-to-time *i.e.*, eligibility, syllabus, scheme and pattern of CSE.

(c) and (d) The Question papers for the Civil Services (Main) Examination are of conventional (essay) type. Candidates have the option to answer all the question papers, except the Qualifying Language papers, in any of the languages included in the Eigth Schedule to the Constitution of India or in English.

Period for applying LTC advance

411. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Government servant can apply for his LTC advance at the notice of sixty days at maximum for purchase of tickets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Railways has increased the advance reservation period to 120 days;

(c) if so, whether Government would revise and link the limit of maximum days of notice period of LTC application with the advance reservation period of Indian Railways since the employees face a lot of difficulties to purchase railway tickets with their LTC advance as railway tickets are mostly booked by that time; and

(d) if so, by when if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR.JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) A Government servant can draw the Leave Travel Concession advance 65 days before the proposed date of outward journey.

(b) Yes. Indian Railways has fixed the advance reservation period as 120 days excluding the date of journey w.e.f. 01.04.2015 for all long distance mail/express trains as well as Shatabdi Express trains.

(c) and (d) The issue of any change in instructions relating to drawal of advance for LTC has to be decided keeping in view all factors including changes made by the Railways, as well as financial implications.

Steps for eradication of corruption

412. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the corruption is rampant in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for such an alarming level of corruption at various level; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to effectively eradicate the epidemic of corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Central Government is fully alive and committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against Corruption".

Corruption thrives where transparency is lacking, procedures are complicated, discretion of a high order is permitted and where there is a demand supply gap.

The Government has already taken several measures to combat corruption and to improve the functioning of Government. These include: