

concluding special recruitment drive and conducting pre-recruitment training programme was communicated to the Departments/Ministries concerned on 20.11.2014.

Since, 1st April, 2012, 20954 of backlog reserved vacancies for OBCs have been filled up.

Steps for improving Kendriya Bhandar

259. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister has recently lauded the contribution of Kendriya Bhandar in providing various household goods and products of day to day use at competitive price and if so, details thereof;

(b) whether Kendriya Bhandar is also supplying stationery and other general items to Government departments at most competitive price since 1981;

(c) whether Kendriya Bhandar is a Multi State Cooperative Society functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Personnel since 1963; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to strengthen and reform the working of Kendriya Bhandar to improve the contributions of Kendriya Bhandar to the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) Central Government in the year 1963 established Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society now known as Kendriya Bhandar. Kendriya Bhandar is now a registered Society under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and functions under the aegis of Department of Personnel and Training.

Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms on 14.7.1981 made it incumbent on all Central Government Departments, their attached/subordinate offices etc. and other organization financed and/or controlled by Government located at Delhi/ New Delhi to make all local purchases of stationery and other items required by them only from the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd. (now known as Kendriya Bhandar), New Delhi.

Subsequently, the policy was changed and it was decided on 05.07.2007 *inter-alia* to give a special dispensation in respect of all Central Government Department, their attached and subordinate offices and other organizations financed and/or controlled by them as under:

- (i) To make purchases at their discretion of all items required for office consumption upto ₹ 1.00 lakh directly from Kendriya Bhandar without calling for quotations.
- (ii) To procure all items of office consumption beyond ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 25 lakh from Kendriya Bhandar/National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) by giving purchase preference in case of limited tenders. Other things being equal, purchase preference will be granted to Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF, if prices quoted by the cooperatives are within 10% of the lowest price (L1) and if these cooperatives are willing to match L1 price.

After due consultation with Department of Expenditure the special dispensation for local purchase of stationary and other articles from Kendriya Bhandar, NCCF and other Multi-State Cooperative Societies having majority share holding by the Government was not extended beyond 31.3.2015.

It has been ascertained from Kendriya Bhandar that several steps have been taken to streamline its business process *viz.* purchasing, supply and distribution, computerization, renovation, adding of new items etc. to improve its functioning efficiency with the aid of providing better services to its customers.

While receiving the dividend cheque of ₹ 6.81 lakhs on behalf of Department of Personnel and Training for the financial year 2014-15, presented by Kendriya Bhandar on 01.02.2016 the Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions lauded the contribution of Kendriya Bhandar in providing various household goods and products of day to day use at competitive price.

Additional change to civil service aspirants

260. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided not to give any additional chance to Civil Services aspirants who took the Civil Services Examination in the last three years (2012-14) and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has issued a directive to Government to examine the above issue and give another chance in this year's test with changed pattern to civil services aspirants who had taken civil services examinations during 2011 to 2014. if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Central Government provided an additional attempt in Civil Services