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23. Dept. of Science and Technology
 24. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
 25. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
 26. Dept. of Agriculture Research and Education
 27. Ministry of Steel
 28. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
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Committee to review representation for compulsory retirement

2083. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to constitute a committee to review representations from employees asked to retire compulsorily in public interest;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to ensure periodic review of officers who should be considered for compulsory retirement on grounds of integrity or competence; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a sense of unease among senior civil servants at the centre over the decision of Government on the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Review of performance is a continuous process under FR 56(j), Rule 48 of CCS(Pension) Rules and the AIS Rules. Recently, all cadre authorities have been asked to constitute Representation Committees in case of receipt of representation from any Government servant, whom the Appointing Authority has decided to retire. Two members of the Committee are nominated by the Cabinet Secretariat and the third member will be nominated by the Cadre Authority.

Weightage of stenography skill in tests by SSC

2084. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that stenography skill of candidates is not given any weightage in the Grade D and Grade C stenographers test conducted by Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and is only qualifying in nature, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government is making any efforts to save this 'skill' from becoming extinct, particularly, at a time when Government is laying a great emphasis on Skill India Programme and also keeping in view the large number of vacancies of Stenographers in various Departments/ Ministries/PSUs of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Considering the job requirement for the post, the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) prescribes qualifying standards to ensure that the candidates for the post of Stenographers (Grade 'C' and 'D') must possess a minimum level of proficiency in the stenography. Accordingly, it has been prescribed in the Notice of the Examination that the candidates who obtain the qualifying marks in the written examination, as may be prescribed by the Commission, will only be called for Skill Test.

The candidates qualified in the written examination are given one dictation for ten minutes in English/Hindi at the speed of 100 Words Per Minutes (W.P.M.) for the post of Steno Grade 'C' and 80 W.P.M. for the post of Steno Grade 'D'. The duration of the Skill Test is as follows:

For Steno. Gr. 'D': 50 minutes (English)

65 minutes (Hindi)

For Steno. Gr 'C': 40 minutes (English)

55 minutes (Hindi)

The merit list of the candidates qualified in the Skill Test is prepared on the basis of marks obtained in written part of the said examination.

(b) For providing employment to the persons having stenography skills, SSC is conducting the examination every year for recruitment of Stenographers Grade 'C' and 'D'. In addition, Stenographers Grade 'C' Departmental Competitive Examination is also conducted by the Commission every year. There is a separate cadre namely Central Secretariat Stenographers Services maintained by the DOPT.

Stenography Skill is also being imparted in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) across the country through the Director General of Training, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.