

Vide O.M dated 29.06.2015 the Government has accepted recommendations of the Expert Committee, consisting *inter alia* of measures to further strengthen implementation of Section 4 of RTI Act. Further an O.M dated 30.06.2016 was issued for ensuring compliance to the recommended measures to strengthen implementation of the Section 4 of RTI Act, by all public authorities.

Relaxation of two years for appearing in CSE

1845. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has provided additional two years provisionally for appearing in Civil Services Examination (CSE) and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to continue with this relaxation and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Government decided to allow two additional attempts to all category of candidates with effect from Civil Services Examination (CSE)-2014, with consequential relaxation of maximum age, if required. The relaxation has continued for CSE-2015 and 2016.

Impact of Administrative reforms implemented by Government

1846. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major and new administrative reforms that have been implemented by Government post 2014 and what were the objectives behind implementing these reforms;

(b) what has been the noteworthy impact of these reforms; and

(c) whether Government has conducted any impact assessment of the Bio-metric attendance system introduced in Union Government offices, if not, whether Government would consider conducting any such study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Several administrative reforms are implemented by the Government post 2014 to make administrative process efficient, transparent and accountable. Some of the major reforms are as under:

- (i) **e-Samiksha**—A real time online system for monitoring and follow up action on the decisions taken by the Government at the apex level in respect of implementation of important Government's programmes/projects.
- (ii) **e-Office**—e-Office Mission Mode Project (MMP) has been strengthened for enabling Ministries/Department to switchover to paperless office.
- (iii) **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payment, e-Payments**—All payments to the beneficiary is to be made directly to their bank account through electronic mode under DBT.
- (iv) **Aadhaar enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS)**—AEBAS was introduced in the Central Government Offices located in Delhi to monitor punctuality of Government officials. This has improved the punctuality of the Government servant in offices.
- (v) **Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW)**—Annual Performance Appraisal Report of All India Service Officers and some other services are being submitted online in the SPARROW portal. The system ensures timely submission and easy access of APAR.
- (vi) **Legal Information Management Based System (LIMBS)**—This is an online court case monitoring system to ensure speedy disposal of disputes.
- (vii) **Online Application System for Notaries**—This system helps the interested persons in getting themselves registered as notaries.
- (viii) **Discontinuation of Interview in Recruitment of Junior Level Posts**—Government has taken a decision to dispense away with the interview in recruitment of all Group 'C', Group 'B' (Non-gazetted post) and other equivalent post from 01.01.2016 in all Government of India Ministries/Department/Attached Offices/Subordinate Offices/Autonomous Bodies/Public Sector Undertakings to curb malpractices and for bringing objectivities to the selection process.
- (ix) **Introduction of conducting examination by Staff Selection Commission (SSC) through Computer Based Mode.** Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts recruitment conducted by SSC made through Computer Base Mode.
- (x) **'Jeevan Pramaan'**—The system provides authenticity to Digital Life Certificate without the necessity of the pensioner being present in person before his/her Pension Dispensing Authority (PDA).
- (xi) The Government has undertaken several initiatives to introduce new IT products and technologies and to strengthen existing ones in its various e-Governance projects. Some of major initiatives are as under:

- (a) **National Scholarship Portal**—It provides a centralized platform for application and disbursement of scholarship to students under any scholarship scheme.
 - (b) **GeM**—An online procurement of Goods and Services required by various Government Departments/Organizations/PSUs, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has been developed to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.
 - (c) **UMANG**- Unified Mobile App for New-age Governance is an initiative to build a common, unified platform and mobile app to facilitate single point of access for Government services through mobile.
 - (d) **e-Sign**- This framework has been developed as an integrated service, which facilitates issuing a Digital Signature Certificate and performing signing of requested document by authenticating the Aadhaar Card holder.
 - (e) **Digital Locker**—This provides an ecosystem with collection of repositories and gateways for issuers to upload the documents in the digital repositories. It will eliminate the usage of physical documents and enable sharing of e-documents across agencies. The System serves as a platform to enable citizens to securely store and share their documents with service providers who can directly access them electronically.
 - (f) **e-Hospital**—Online Registration Framework (ORF) is an initiative to facilitate the patients to take online OPD appointments with government hospitals. This framework also covers patient care, laboratory services and medical record management.
 - (g) **Mobile Seva**—Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has implemented a countrywide initiative on mobile Governance, called Mobile Seva, to provide Government services to the people through mobile phones and tablets.
 - (h) **National Centre of Geo-informatics (NCoG)**—Under this project, Geographic Information System (GIS) platform for sharing, collaboration, location based analytics and decision support system for Departments has been developed. Currently, 8 applications across various domains are operational.
- (xii) Following initiatives are taken up to ensure farmers' welfare as well as consumers' satisfaction:
- (a) **M-Kisan Portal**—All Central and State Government Organizations in

agriculture and allied sectors to give information/services/advisories to farmers by SMS in their language, preference of agricultural practices and location.

- (b) **Kisan Call Centres**—Government setup call centres to respond to the queries of farmers on all seven days a week from 6.00 AM to 10.00 PM through toll free telephone No. 1800-18-1551.
- (c) **Kisan Suvidha Mobile App**—on five critical parameters—weather, input dealers, market price, plant protection and expert advisories.
- (d) **e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)**—Connecting 21 wholesale markets (Mandis) in eight States.

(c) An internal data analysis of the Aadhaar enabled Biometric Attendance System was undertaken for the Central Government offices located in New Delhi during May-June, 2015.

Effects of cases slapped on bureaucrats

1847. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases slapped on bureaucrats both serving and retired for decisions they had taken have created a sense of insecurity and have slowed down the decision making process at the top level of bureaucracy;

(b) whether Government agrees that bureaucrats should be enabled to work freely, fearlessly in taking decisions; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government proposes to insulate bureaucrats from litigation while in service and after retirement for decisions taken by them in the course of discharge of their duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The statement that “the cases slapped on bureaucrats both serving and retired for decisions they had taken have created a sense of insecurity and have slowed down the decision making process at the top level of bureaucracy”, represents a perception and a point of view.

(b) and (c) In order to create an environment conducive for free, objective and speedy decision making process, amendments have been proposed in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 which include prior approval for investigation against public servants so as to provide protection against fear of vexatious and frivolous complaints[proposed section 17A], extending protection of prior sanction for prosecution