

(d) if not, whether Government has evolved any other mechanism to address this aspect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) All India Services Rules, which govern All India Services Officers, are amended from time to time to effect changes in the conditions of service in order to meet the present day challenges.

(c) and (d) Officers at senior level of Deputy Secretary and above in the Government of India are appointed under Central Staffing Scheme on the basis of their experience and suitability as per the established procedure. Recently, a person with expertise in the sector has been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation on contract basis. Besides, Secretaries of Scientific Ministries/Departments are appointed from amongst eminent scientists.

Information on schemes undertaken by Ministries on the website

1844. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recognizes that despite Right to Information Act, 2005, ordinary citizens do not have readily available information on various schemes undertaken by various Ministries as mandated by Section 4 of the Act;

(b) whether Government is cognizant of the fact that various Ministries do not have properly functional and updated website portals; and

(c) if so, what steps Government aims to take to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 was enacted to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every Public Authority and the implementation of the RTI Act is mandatory for all Public Authorities including Ministries and Departments.

Under Section 4 of RTI Act, all Public Authorities have to provide disclosure as mandated.

The Government has taken number of steps to strengthen this transparency legislation. With a view to maximizing *suo-motu* disclosure by public authorities, Government has issued guidelines to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India on 21.09.2007 and 15.04.2013 impressing upon the public authorities to disclose maximum information proactively so that citizens need not resort to filing of RTI applications to access information available with the public authorities.

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: