

(e) From time to time, Government appoints specialists and domain experts in technical and professional areas to meet the functional needs of the organization.

Steps to strengthen CIC and RTI Act

2520. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacancies in Central Information Commission (CIC) during 2014 to 2018 as on date and year-wise;

(b) the details of vacancies in CIC filled by Government during that period, year-wise; and

(c) the details of steps Government has taken during the last three years and till date to empower and strengthen the CIC and the RTI Act, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The details of vacancies in various posts as furnished by Central Information Commission are as follows-

Year	No. of vacancies
2014	16
2015	14
2016	09
2017	Nil
2018	11

(b) During the period from 2014 to 2018, the vacancies of 5 Assistants, 20 UDCs and 7 Stenos have been filled up. In addition, the appointment against 30 vacancies for different categories of posts is under process at present.

(c) Government has been taking steps to improve implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005, *inter alia*, as follows:

(i) RTI Online portal (<https://rtionline.gov.in>) has been launched in August, 2013 by Department of Personnel and Training.

- Disposal of Online Request is 85% (*i.e.* CPIOs replying to RTI Request in online medium)
 - Disposal of Online Appeals is also at 72% (*i.e.* FAAs replying to RTI appeal in online medium)
 - Number of Public Authorities increased from 96 to approx. 2199 from 2013-14 to 2018-19 (till 15 December 2018) making it convenient for citizen to file RTI requests and first appeals online.
 - More than 12000 Officials, staffs and end users at various Central Government offices were trained in RTI Online Portal by conducting trainings sessions across the country.
- (ii) DoPT provides funds to various State Governments for establishing helpline in order to facilitate obtaining of the information by the RTI applicants.
- (iii) Funds are provided each year to various State Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs) by the Government to help generate awareness about RTI among the citizens of the country through measures like Distance learning programmes and Online certificate course in regional languages, publishing of handbooks on RTI and distribution of the same among the public. State Information Commissions (SICs) are also provided funds for celebration of RTI week.

Reversion to Old Pension Scheme

2521. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question-2663 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th August, 2018 and state:

- (a) the details of criteria for deciding administrative delay as per the judgements of High Court of Delhi and as per the interpretation by the Department;
- (b) whether Government is deliberately encouraging litigation by not issuing general orders for restoration of Old Pension Scheme in similar cases inspite of knowing the fact that officials would get relief from court;
- (c) if so, the reasons for harassment of its own officials and putting burden on exchequer due to deliberate litigation;