

- 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;

(d) whether Government would reconsider to restore Old Pension Scheme for similar cases; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (e) In accordance with the Scheme for National Pension System (NPS), as notified *vide* Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)'s Notification No. 5/7/2003-ECB and PR dated 22.12.2003 and section 20 of PFRDA Act, 2013, the System is mandatory for all new recruits to the Central Government service (except Armed Forces) from 01.01.2004.

In a specific case relating to appointments as Sub-Inspector in various Central Para Military Forces after selection in August, 2003 on the basis of CPO Examination, 2002, while appointments in Central Reserve Police Force were made in 2003 itself, offers of appointment in the Border Security Force were issued in January, 2004. On a petition filed by some personnel appointed in the Border Security Force on the basis of that examination, Hon'ble High Court of Delhi directed to cover the petitioners under the Central Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 1972 on the grounds of administrative delay on the part of Border Security Force. The order of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi was implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Border Security Force in view of the peculiar circumstances of the case and the administrative delay.

The question whether there is any delay in appointment and whether such delay is on account of administrative reasons or otherwise, can be decided based on the facts of each case. Therefore, no guidelines laying down general criteria for deciding administrative delay in this regard have been issued.

#### **Withdrawal of applications before examination**

2522. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UPSC has decided to allow withdrawal of applications before examinations;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the UPSC is also considering to shift from the pen and paper to online examinations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?