

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) RTI Online portal (<https://rtionline.gov.in>) has already been put in place by Department of Personnel and Training since August 2013 to help citizens in filing RTI Applications, First and Second Appeals with the Public Authorities aligned there. Further, Central Information Commission has in place the facility of Audio/Video hearing even before COVID-19 pandemic and all the second Appeals/Complaints cases outside Delhi have been adjudicated through NIC studios at various district headquarters in various states, as suitable for the Appellant and Respondent. During COVID-19 pandemic, the Central Information Commission had taken steps to facilitate hearing of second Appeals/Complaints through audio/video facilities by intensive use of technology.

(b) As far as Central Information Commission is concerned, a total number of 4491 online requests have been processed since March, 2020 to 17.09.2020.

Suspended functioning of State Information Commissions

1385. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the declaration of lockdown in March 2020, most State Information Commissions have not been functioning/have been in suspended functioning; and

(b) if so, details of the remedial steps taken by the Ministry to restore normalcy in functioning of State Information Commissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Information Commission (CIC) has been functional even after declaration of lockdown in March, 2020. As for State Information Commissions, each of the State Governments took a call appropriately.

Appointment of CIC

1386. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of appointment of the new Chief Information Commissioner;

(b) the status of appointment of Information Commissioners in the CIC;

(c) whether Government has initiated any processes to fill the vacancies in a timely manner with regard to the direction given by the Supreme Court in February 2019; and

(d) the criteria adopted by the Search Committee for shortlisting candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission completed his tenure on 26.08.2020. The process of appointment of new CIC and ICs is going on.

(c) Yes Sir. The Chief Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission has completed his tenure on 26.08.2020. One Information Commissioner is completing his tenure on 25.09.2020. Government had initiated the process to fill up the vacancy in a timely manner by way of issuing the advertisements to fill up the post of Chief Information Commissioner and upto 6 posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission on 09.07.2020.

(d) The High level Search Committee follows a method of obtaining relevant information in respect of various candidates while scrutinization of applications and shortlists the candidates for the post of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission for consideration of the Committee under Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

1387. *The Question was cancelled.*

Implementation of Schedule Caste Sub Plan

1388. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines issued for the proper implementation of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan;

(b) the Ministry-wise and year-wise status of the implementation of every scheme under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan during the last three years;

(c) whether incidents of violations relating to utilization of funds and guidelines in Sub Plan have been reported; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken and corrective measures adopted by Government in this regard?