

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO- *24
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 24/07/2024

VACANT POSITIONS IN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

*24 SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the position of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and members of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) can remain vacant, if so, for how long, the details of relevant provision of the Act or the Rule in this regard;
- (b) the details of period in last three years till date, during which the position of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members of the Commission remained vacant, the reasons for the same; and
- (c) the positions in commission which are vacant now and since when, and by when Government will fill it?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JUAL ORAM)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.*24 for answer on 24.07.2024

(a) to (c): The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) consists of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and three Members. Presently, one (1) post i.e., Vice Chairperson is vacant in National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) w.e.f. 27.07.2019. The post of Vice Chairperson fell vacant due to the resignation of the incumbent to assume charge as Governor of Chhattisgarh. However, on the direction of the Hon'ble President, Shri Ananta Nayak, (the then Member) discharged the duties of the Officer of the Vice Chairperson in the NCST for the remainder of the Member's tenure (for the period from 22.01.2024 to 24.02.2024). The present Commission has taken over the charge in March, 2024 as per the date of joining given below:

- i. Shri Antarsingh Arya – Chairperson – Assumption of charge: 13.03.2024
- ii. Smt. Asha Lakra - Member - Assumption of charge: 12.03.2024
- iii. Shri Nirupam Chakma - Member - Assumption of charge: 14.03.2024
- iv. Shri Jatothu Hussain - Member - Assumption of charge: 14.03.2024

The eligibility criteria for appointment of these posts of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has been prescribed in Section 3 of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members (Conditions of Service and Tenure) Rules 2004.

These are Constitutional posts. Procedure followed for selection of Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and members of NCST is as follows:

Proposals for selection of Chairperson and members of NCST are received in this Ministry from various sources i.e VIPs, eminent personality, Chief Ministers of States, MLAs, MPs, directly etc. and are scrutinized in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The credentials of the proposed persons is verified from the concerned State Governments / State Authorities. Once approved by the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs, the proposals are sent to Cabinet Secretariat for consideration and approval of the competent authority followed by communication of selected names to the President's Secretariat with the approval of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Hon'ble President by warrant under her hand and seal approves the name for appointment as Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and members of NCST. After consent of the concerned person and after their joining as Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and member of NCST, a Gazette notification is issued.

No timeline has been framed for filling of these posts.
