

Strength of NIC employees

5292. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of the NIC employees per district unit of NIC together with the rank/status of each employees as sanctioned by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that several employees of NIC at various district units in Tamil Nadu continue to stay for several years even after getting promotions, though their stay is violative of the rule of establishment sanctioned by Government; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Sanctioned strength of National Informatics Centres (NIC) per district Unit is a District Informatics Officer in the Grade of Scientific Officer/Engineer 'SB' and a District Informatics Assistant/Associate in the grade of Scientific/Technical Assistant.

(b) and (c) The promotion of the S&T Officials in National Informatics Centre is governed by the Flexible Complementing Scheme (FCS). This scheme provides mechanism to consider the promotion of eligible officers by upgrading their post. However the officers are required to continue to perform the same technical duties and responsibilities. A number of officials are transferred to different locations of NIC to meet the changing demand pattern in the organisation.

Setting up of Video Conferencing Units

5293. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Video Conferencing Units have been set up at the district levels by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in some States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the reason for neglecting Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State	No. of Commissionerates/Districts
Chhattisgarh	3
Himachal Pradesh	3
Jharkhand	4
Orissa	7
Punjab	4
Rajasthan	2
Uttaranchal	2
Uttar Pradesh	70

In addition to the above, NIC has also created Video conferencing facility at 29 U.T. State locations, including the following from the Southern States:

Bangalore	(Karnataka)
Chennai	(Tamil Nadu)
Hyderabad	(Andhra Pradesh)
Vishakhapatnam	(Andhra Pradesh)
Pondicherry	(U.T.)
Thiruvanthapuram	(Kerala)

(c) Does not arise.

Reconstitution of Science and Technology Advisory Committee

5294. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Science and Technology Advisory Committee was reconstituted late in the year 1997;

(b) if so, what was the necessity felt to reconstitute it; and

(c) what were the thrust areas for R&D work and what were the achievements?