

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 4/3/2013 – IR
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions
(Department of Personnel and Training)

A meeting of the Search Committee for preparing panels for the posts of information Commissioners in Central Information Commission was held on 19th August, 2013 at 10.30 hours in the Cabinet Secretariat.

2. The draft minutes of the meeting are enclosed for approval.

(Dr. S. K. Sarkar)
Secretary (P)

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Cabinet Secretary

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Minutes of the meeting of the Search Committee for preparing panels for the posts of Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission held on 19th August, 2013 at 10.30 am

A meeting of the Search Committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary took place on 19th August, 2013 to prepare a panel of 2-3 names for each post of Information Commissioners to be filled up in the CIC for consideration of Selection Committee chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister.

The meeting was attended by Shri Pulok Chatterji, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Dr. S. K. Sarkar, Secretary (P) and Ms. Amrita Patel, Chairman, NDDDB. Dr. B. A. Agrawal, Law Secretary, recused himself as he was one of the applicants. Secretary, Higher Education did not attend the meeting.

Secretary (P) informed the Committee that Hon'ble Prime Minister had approved the recommendations of the DoPT for starting the selection process for appointment of one post of Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and 4 posts of Information Commissioners (ICs) in the current round of selection based on the earlier approved process, keeping in view, inter-alia, the observations and directions of the Supreme Court. Subsequently, applications were invited for appointment as ICs from eligible persons vide circular dated 31.5.2013 and advertisements in the leading newspapers with the last date of receipt of applications as 28.6.2013. In response, 422 applications had been received by the last date i.e. 28.6.2013. Category wise breakup of applicants is given in the Annexure. As per Section 12(5) of the RTI Act, 2005, the CIC & ICs shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.

Secretary (P) informed that the Central Information Commission presently had besides the CIC, 6 ICs. Shri M. L. Sharma, IC had tendered his resignation with effect from 4th September, 2013. Besides, Shri Satyananda Mishra, CIC would also complete his tenure on 4.9.2013. Thus, after 4.9.2013, there would be 5 ICs in the

Central Information Commission. In the light of decision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and likely vacancies, the Search Committee decided to prepare panels for five posts of Information Commissioners, with three persons in each panels.

The Committee decided to take into consideration the width, diversity, relevance and length of experience of the applicants, with some preference for legal background and strategic exposure and eminence in public life, knowledge and experience in the relevant field. The Committee after scrutinizing the particulars of the applicants and after detailed discussions, recommended the following five panels, each in the alphabetical order, for consideration of the Selection Committee as provided in section 12(3) of the RTI Act for making recommendations for appointment of ICs:

PANEL I

- (I) Dr. Mrutyunjay Sarangi
- (II) Shri Sanjeev Kumar Tripathi
- (III) Shri Yashvardhan Azad

PANEL II

- (I) Shri Girish Chandra Chaturvedi
- (II) Shri Sharat Sabharwal
- (III) Ms. Sheila Sangwan

PANEL III

- (I) Ms. Manjula Prasher
- (II) Shri Pradeep Kumar Misra
- (III) Ms. Vibha Puri Das

PANEL IV

- (I) Dr. Brahm Avtar Agrawal
- (II) Shri M.A.Khan Yusufi
- (III) Shri Sunil Kumar Chaudhary

PANEL V

- (I) Dr. Anuradha Verma
- (II) Shri Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu
- (III) Shri Satya Prakash

The Committee decided that DoPT should seek reports from IB and vigilance clearance from the respective Cadre Control Authorities/Ministries. The Committee decided that keeping in view the number of ICs in position in the Central Information Commission and increasing pendency of cases, there was a need to urgently finalise the selection of the ICs. As seeking reports from CVC would take considerable time, it was decided that DoPT should seek reports for the persons listed in the panels from CBI if they were under any investigation by the CBI. Thereafter, the panels would be placed before the Selection Committee chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister for consideration.

(Dr. S. K. SARKAR)
Secretary (Personnel)

(AMRITA PATEL)
Chairperson, NDDB

(PULOK CHATERJI)
Principal Secretary to
Prime Minister

(AJIT SETH)
CABINET SECRETARY

Annexure**Category-wise break up of applicants**

<u>Category</u>	<u>No. of applicants</u>
Law	65
Science & Technology	30
Social service	22
Management	81
Journalism	20
Mass Media	11
Administration and Governance	177
Others	16
Total	422

No. 4/3/2013-IR

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

Minutes of the meeting of the Search Committee held on 19.08.2013 for preparing panels for the posts of Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission

Present: Shri Ajit Seth, Cabinet Secretary ... In chair
 Shri Pulok Chatterji, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister
 Shri S.K. Sarkar, Secretary (Personnel)
 Ms. Amrita Patel, Chairperson, NDDB

[Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary (Higher Education) could not attend. Shri B.A. Agrawal, Law Secretary recused himself as he was one of the candidates]

The Search Committee was informed that at present there are six Information Commissioners functioning in the Central Information Commission apart from the Chief Information Commissioner. The Committee was informed that the Chief Information Commissioner, Shri Satyananda Mishra is due to complete his tenure on 04.09.2013 and that Shri M.L. Sharma, Information Commissioner, has tendered his resignation with effect from 04.09.2013.

2. The Committee was informed that the Prime Minister had approved the recommendations of the Department of Personnel and Training for beginning the selection process for appointment to the post of Chief Information Commissioner and four posts of Information Commissioner in the current round of selection based on the earlier approved process, keeping in view, inter-alia, the observations and directions of the Supreme Court.

3. As per Section 12(5) of Act, the Information Commissioners shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance. The Commissioner shall not be a MP or MLA or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession. The Committee was informed of the Supreme Court's directions/ observations in the Writ Petition filed by Shri Namit Sharma as indicated in Annexure I.

3. The Committee was informed that the circular seeking applications from interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners was posted on the website of DoPT on 31.05.2013 and an advertisement was also published in two leading English newspapers and in one Hindi newspaper. The last date for receipt of applications was 28.06.2013. The Committee was informed that a total of 422 applications have been received by the last date. The details of the 422 applicants are at Annexure II.

4. In the light of the decision to select one CIC and four ICs during the current process of selection, the Committee decided to prepare panels for five posts of Information Commissioners with three names in each panel.

5. The Committee after considering the details of the applicants, their educational qualifications, the width, diversity, relevance and length of their experience, and after detailed discussions, recommended the following five panels, each in alphabetical order, for consideration of the Committee prescribed in Section 12(3) of the RTI Act for


making recommendations for appointment of Information Commissioners:

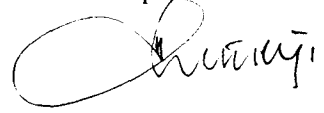
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- Panel I**
- (i) Shri Dr. Mrutyunjay Sarangi
 - (ii) Shri Sanjeev Kumar Tripathi
 - (iii) Shri Yashovardhan Azad
- Panel II**
- (i) Shri Girish Chandra Chaturvedi
 - (ii) Shri Sharat Sabharwal
 - (iii) Ms. Sheila Sangwan
- Panel III**
- (i) Ms. Manjula Prasher
 - (ii) Shri Pradeep Kumar Misra
 - (iii) Ms. Vibha Puri Das
- Panel IV**
- (i) Dr. Brahm Avtar Agrawal
 - (ii) Shri M.A. Khan Yusufi
 - (iii) Shri Sunil Kumar Chaudhary
- Panel V**
- (i) Dr. Anuradha Verma
 - (ii) Shri Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu
 - (iii) Shri Satya Prakash

6. Keeping in view the urgent need to fill the vacancies of Information Commissioners and that seeking report from the Central Vigilance Commission would take considerable time, the Committee decided that the Department of Personnel and Training may seek reports from the Central Bureau of Investigation in respect of the shortlisted persons as to whether these persons are under any investigation by the CBI. The Committee also decided that DoPT may also obtain reports from Intelligence Bureau in respect of all the shortlisted persons and vigilance clearance from the respective cadre controlling authorities.


(Amrita Patel)


(S.K. Sarkar)


(Pulok Chatterji)


(Ajit Seth)