

**Disclosure of Information is subject to exemptions
under Section 8(i)(j) and Section 10(i) of the RTI Act,
2005.**

Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training

Subject:-Selection of Information Commissioner/Chief Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission

FR is letter from Secretary, Central Information Commission dated 06/02/2014 requesting to initiate action for filling up vacancies in Central Information Commission, so that disposal of cases by CIC could be carried on uninterruptedly. As per CIC data, over 24,594 cases are pending for disposal in the Commission as on 01/01/2014.

2. As per section 12 (2) of the Act, the Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, **not exceeding ten**, as may be deemed necessary. At present, the Central Information Commission has Chief Information Commissioner and 8 (Eight) Information Commissioners. It is proposed to initiate action for selection of 2 Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

3. It is pertinent to mention that the process followed during the last appointment of Information Commissioners is as under:

- I. A circular was posted on the website of DOPT seeking particulars of the interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners.
- II. An advertisement was also published in the 2 leading English newspapers (Times of India and The Hindu) and in one Hindi newspaper (Dainik Bhasker).
- III. The applications were tabulated by DoPT. After tabulation, the same were sent to the Search Committee.
- IV. The search committee recommend panel of names to the selection committee.

Amritha

4. The "Search Committee" was headed by the Cabinet Secretary, with principal Secretary to PM, Secretary (HRD), Secretary (Law), Secretary (DOPT) and Ms Amrita Patel, Chairperson (NDDB) as members.

5. In view of above, the following proposals are submitted for the approval of Hon'ble Prime Minister:

- (i) To initiate action for selection of 2 Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.
- (ii) To follow the same procedure as was followed during the last selection of ICs, as mentioned at para 3 above. Accordingly, draft circular for inviting applications and draft advertisement for newspapers are placed below for approval.
- (iii) The same Search Committee may continue.

Submitted please.

(Signature)

(R.K. Girdhar)
US - RTI
17.2.2014

~~DSI (LR)~~

~~IS (E)~~

~~Secretary~~

172

(Signature)

17/2/14

Para 5 of Note above is submitted for consideration please

18.2.2014

~~MOS (PP)~~

~~Secy (P)~~

(Signature)
17/2/14

~~SCC (E)~~

15.2.2014

Hon'ble Line Minister please see two parts of information commission

are vacant ~~at~~ at present. We may call for
reapplications in the same two lots and
we may also write to the election commission
intimating the status of selection to the
election commission of India also.

Kind approval please.



20/2/14.

JSD/SC
20/2/14

Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training
IR Division

Subject:-Appointment of Information Commissioner(s)

merged with
main file.
(Pr. no.)
25/2/2014

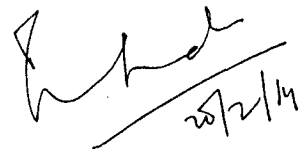
The Government is in the process of appointment of Information Commissioners in the CIC. The file is under submission to PMO.

2. Since the entire selection process is likely to take more than one and half month i.e. by end of March, 2014 and the general elections to the Lok Sabha are due shortly, it is proposed to bring to the notice of the Election Commission of India regarding selection process of Information Commissioners in the CIC.

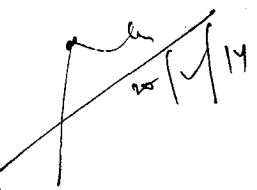
3. A draft D.O. letter from EO&AS DoPT to the ~~Chief~~ ^{Deputy} Election Commissioner is placed below for approval.



(Sandeep Jain)
Director IR
20.2.2014

~~JS(E)~~


20/2/14

~~AS & EO~~


20/2/14

~~JS(E)~~
~~DIS/IR~~
20/2/14

20/2

U(CRT)

Department of Personnel & Training
IR Section

It has been proposed to fill up some more posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission. As per past practice, an advertisement to this effect is given in the leading newspapers. Last time when the posts of five Information Commissioners were filled, advertisement was given in three newspaper viz. the Hindu and the Times of India, in English and Dainik Bhaskar in Hindi in all its editions in India. It is proposed that similar practice of giving advertisement in three newspapers may be followed this time also.

2. The estimated cost for releasing this Press advertisement in dailies has been sought from the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), which is amounting to Rs.3,39,955/-.

3. We may seek the concurrence of IFD before issue the LAO to the DAVP.

4. The expenditure will be debitible to Major Head 2052- Secretariat General Service - 00.090- Secretariat (Minor Head) - 05 - Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions - 05.01- Department of Personnel & Training - 05.01.26 - Advertising and Publicity - Demand No. 73 under Non-Plan for the year 2013-14.

5. Before seeking the concurrence of IFD, kind approval of JS(AT&A) is solicited for issuing LOA of an amount of Rs.3,39,955/- in favour of DAVP.

[Signature]
21/2/2014

[Signature]
20/12

JICE

[Signature]
21/1/14

DnFB

[Signature]
20/2

IFD (Fin. pers) - Shri. Suman Narain, DS - on tour

MHA / IFD

AFA (Pers)

Reference made above.

2. Before the proposal is processed further, we may request Deptt to indicate availability of fund in the concerned head.

Ek
21/02/14

Huss
21/2/14
AFA (Pers)

US (YR) 2089TS

[Signature]
24/2/2014

MS Ch. Inq
Huss
21/2/14
AFA (Pers)

4761 / DS (P/P) / 667
21.02.2014

222 / 14 / AFA (Pers)
21/2

Ref. note on page

kindly indicate availability of funds to
the tune of Rs 3,39,955 for giving adv.
in newspapers calling for proposals for
appointment of more ICS in C.I.C.

(Signature)
24/1/14

S.O (Budget)

Ref: Above

The expenditure under the object head
05.14.26 - Advertising & Publicity as on 21/2/2014
(Pr. Ao figures) is Rs 10.42 crores against a RE 2013-14
of Rs 12.96 crore, hence sufficient funds are
available under the head to meet the
aforesaid expense.

(Signature)
24/2/14

US (IR)

May pl. see note above with query on
page.

(Signature)
24/2/14

227/14/AFSA(perm)
24/2

Sh. Sajid
for
24/2/14

AFSA(1)

Ministry of Home Affairs
AFA (Pers.) Branch

Reference note at pre page.

2. This is a proposal of DOPT for expenditure of Rs. 3,39,955/- for advertisement of vacancies in the three newspaper viz. the Hindu and the Times of India, in English and Dainik Bhaskar in Hindi in all its editions in India through DAVP to fill up some more posts of information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.
3. Department has obtained estimate from DAVP. The details may kindly be seen at F/A.
4. The Expenditure will be debitible to Major Head 2052- Secretariat General Service - 00.090- secretariat (Minor Head) - 05 - Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions - 05.01- Department of Personnel & Training - 05.14.26- Advertising and Publicity - Demand No. 73 under Non-Plan for the year 2013-14. An amount of Rs.10.42 crore are available under the said head to meet the expenditure.
5. In view of above, subject to approval of competent administrative authority, if agreed, we may concur the proposal of DOPT for expenditure of Rs. 3,39,955/- for advertisement of vacancies.

Be
24/02/14

Hens
24/2/14
AFA(Pers)

JSCFP

310476/DS(P/P)/667
24-02-2014

- May pls. have the main file linked on this issue. What are the guidelines for filling up posts?
- What are the committed liabilities etc. - exact fund availability?
- What are the dates of vacancies? How many posts have been sanctioned?

Ju
24/2

Dist(R) has seen.

Budget Div. (DPT) may kindly respond to the query on above - on committed liabilities and exact fund availability' raised by IPD.

S.O (Budget) / S.O (Cash)

(S/O)
25/2/2014

- 4 -
Department of Personnel and Training
(Budget and Accounts Section)

Reference notes on pre-pages.

2. This is a proposal for releasing an advertisement in News paper to fill up some posts of 'Information Commissioners' in CIC. Availability of Funds under the head 'Advertising and Publicity' was sought from Budget & Accounts Section.


3. DOPT is operating the head '**Advertising and Publicity**' under Non Plan and also under the Plan head 'Propagation of RTI Act'. The fund availability given at page 2/N is under the Plan head '**Advertising and Publicity**' (2052.00.090.05.14.26). It appears from the note at page 1/N that the expenditure on the present proposal is to be booked under the **Non Plan** head **2052.00.090.05.01.26**. The exact availability of fund under Non Plan - '**Advertising and Publicity**' is given below:-

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Head	BE	Exp. as on 31.12.13	RE	Authorisation issued (as on 21-2.14)	Directly booked by PAO	Actual Expenditure against authorization/ Total Expenditure (21.2.14)
Advertisement and Publicity (Non Plan) (2052.00.090.05.01.26)	20.00	2.73	7.00	4.91	0.00	2.73

E/B

From the expenditure statement above, it appears that there is a committed liability of 4.91 lakh to the extent of authorization already issued. Against the Committed liability of Rs.4.91 lakh, expenditure has been booked for an amount of Rs.2.73 lakh and a net balance amount of **Rs.2.09 lakh** is available against the RE.


SO(BPA)

~~SO(1R)~~ / ~~VS(1R)~~ *(By order)*
25/2/2014

~~Dir(1R)~~

Since it is utmost urgent to get the said advertisement published in the newspapers, it is requested to kindly take immediate action for re-appropriation of funds so that sufficient fund is available in 'Non-plan - Adv + Publicity' head.

~~VS(BPA)~~

Q
25/2
Dir(1R)

Dept of Personnel & Training
B&A Section.


Ref: Note on pae-page.

The availability of funds under DOPT's Non plan head "Advertising & Publicity" was Rs 2.09 lakh (excluding authorisations already issued). The allocation under the said head has been enhanced vide Reappropriation Order No. 22 by Rs 2 lakh from DOPT's Non plan head. "Publication".

✓F/D

2. Thus the availability of fund under the head "Advertising & Publicity" after reappropriation is Rs 4.09 lakh as on date.

✓
26/2/14.


26/2/14

US (RTI)

Reference queries raised by DS(F/P) on page 3/ante.

2. Point-wise reply to the queries is as under:

Query (a) May please have the main file linked on this issue. What are the guidelines for filling up posts?

Reply: The main file No. 4/4/2014-IR, on return from PMO, has been shown to DS(F/P) and is now under submission. The posts of Information Commissioner(s) in Central Information Commission are filled up as and when required. The RTI, 2005 provides that an Information Commission shall consists of (i) the Chief Information Commissioner; and (ii) such number of Central Information Commissioners, no exceeding ten, as may be deemed necessary. At present, there are eight Information Commissioners and one Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved filling up of post of two Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

As regards Guidelines, the RTI Act, 2005 provides that the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the committee consisting of - (i) the Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee; (ii) the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and (iii) a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister. In this connection, Prime Minister vide their ID No. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 has approved the same procedure as was followed during the last round of selection of ICs i.e. issuing a circular(on the website of this Department) for inviting applications and advertisement in newspapers. During the last round of selection, an advertisement for inviting application for the posts of ICs in CIC, was given in three newspapers i.e. the Hindu and the Times of India, in English and Dainik Bhaskar, in Hindi, in all their editions in India.

Query (b) What are the committed liabilities etc. - exact fund availability?

Reply: Against an expenditure of Rs.3,39,955/- for giving advertisement in three leading newspapers, an amount of Rs.2.09 lakhs was available in RE 2013-14. Accordingly, funds have been reappropriated vide order No. 22 and now Rs.4.09 lakhs is available in the head 'advertising and publicity' under Non-plan. Re-appropriation order may be seen at **Flag 'D'** Note of B&A in this regard may be seen at p.5/ante.

Query (c) What are the dates of vacancies? How many posts have been sanctioned?

Reply: As per provisions of the Act, there could be a maximum of ten Information Commissioners in CIC apart from one Chief Information Commissioner. At present, there are eight ICs and one Chief Information Commissioner in the CIC. There is no concept of vacancies. Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved filling up of post of two Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

3. A circular inviting applications for the post of ICs in the CIC has already been uploaded on the website of this Department on 25.2.2014.

4. Approval of IFD is solicited for expenditure of Rs.3,39,955/- in favour of DAVP for publishing advertisement in three newspapers i.e. The Hindu and the Times of India, in English and Dainik Bhaskar, in Hindi, in all their editions in India, as approved by Hon'ble Prime Minister.

(R.K. Girdhar)

(R.K. Girdhar)
Under Secretary (RTI)
26.02.2014

Director (IR)

S
26/2

~~DS (F/A)~~

In view of response above, if appd, we may
concur to para 5, pg 3/N.

dw
26/2

AS&FA(H)

Concurd.

Sme
26/2

DS (F/A)

dw
26/2

(S. C. PANDA)
AS & FA (H)

~~AS&FA(H)~~

Res
27/2/14

Dir (IR)

A request to PAO has been sent, High DDO,
to issue LAO in favour of DAVP

(S. C. PANDA)

27/2/2014

3/04/14
26/2/14
26/2/14

-8-12-

F. No. 4/4/2014 - IR
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training

Subject: -Selection of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission

✓ Clg 'A'

PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 has conveyed the approval of Hon'ble Prime Minister for continuation of the "Search Committee" during the current round of selection for appointment of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission as constituted during the last round of selection process, as given below:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1) Cabinet Secretary | Chairman |
| 2) Principal Secretary to PM | Member |
| 3) Secretary (Higher Education) | Member |
| 4) Law Secretary | Member |
| 5) Secretary (Personnel) | Member |
| 6) Ms Amrita Patel, former Chairperson (NDDB) | Member |

2. It is mentioned that Secretary (Personnel), Dr. S.K. Sarkar, who is a member of the Search Committee, is one of the applicants also for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC. Dr. Sarkar vide his note dated 26.02.2014 has requested that he be recused from being member of the Search Committee.

3. It is pertinent to mention that during the last round of selection of Information Commissioners, the then Law Secretary, Dr. B.A. Agrawal was one of the members of the Search Committee and also one of the applicants for the post of Information Commissioners and was recused from being member of the search Committee.

4. File is submitted for consideration of Hon'ble Prime Minister for nomination of another member of Search Committee in place of Secretary (Personnel).

Submitted please.

(R.K.Girdhar)
(R.K.Girdhar)
Under Secretary
(28.02.2014)

Director (IR)

JS (ES) *29/2*
3/3/14

Secretary

MOSCOPD. In place of Secretary Deptt, since he is an applicant in the post of Information Commissioner, Secretary P.R. Singh will be considered as member of the search committee. 6/3/14

PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 had conveyed the approval of Hon'ble Prime Minister for the following:-

- (i) Action for selection of two ICs in CIC, may be initiated;
- (ii) The same procedure as was followed during the last selection of ICs, by issuing a draft circular for inviting applications and draft advertisement for newspapers as per draft submitted, may be followed; and
- (iii) The same Search Committee for appointment of the ICs, may continue.

2. Accordingly, an advertisement inviting particulars of interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC was published on the website of this Department on 25.02.2014 and in leading newspapers of the country on 28.02.2014. **The last date for receiving such applications is 25.03.2014.**

3. During the last round of selection process for appointment of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission, the Search Committee consisted of following:

1.	Cabinet Secretary	Chairman
2.	Principal Secretary to PM	Member
3.	Secretary (Higher Education)	Member
4.	Law Secretary	Member
5.	Secretary (Personnel)	Member
6.	Ms Amrita Patel, Chairperson (NDDB)	Member

4. Secretary (Personnel) is one of the applicants for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC and vide his note dated 26.02.2014 has requested that he be recused from being member of the Search Committee. Accordingly, file was submitted for consideration of Hon'ble Prime Minister for nomination of another member of Search Committee in place of Secretary (Personnel).

5. PMO vide their ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 18.03.2014 has conveyed the approval of Hon'ble PM for the nomination of Secretary, DAR&PG as member of the Search Committee in place of Secretary (P). The constitution of final Search Committee will be as under:-

1.	Cabinet Secretary	Chairman
2.	Principal Secretary to PM	Member
3.	Secretary (Higher Education)	Member
4.	Law Secretary	Member
5.	Secretary DAR&PG	Member
6.	Ms Amrita Patel, former Chairperson (NDDB)	Member


6. In February, 2014 it was expected that the general election to the Lok Sabha could be announced anytime, it was brought to notice of the Election Commission of India by EO & AS vide his D.O. letter dated 20.02.2014 that the Government is making all efforts to complete the selection process by end of March, 2014. However, having regard to the nature of various activities involved in the process, it is likely that the entire process may spill over beyond March, 2014 by one or two weeks. It is pertinent to mention that the notification for Election and Model Code of Conduct for General Lok Sabha Election, 2014 has come into force w.e.f. 05th March, 2014. As per Election Commission's letter No. 437/6/2009-CC&BE dated 05.03.2009 (para 11) "Regular recruitment/appointment or promotion through the UPSC, State Public Service Commission or the Staff Selection Commission or any other statutory authority can continue. Recruitments through non-statutory bodies, will require prior clearance of the Commission. "

B.F.I.D.

Since the appointments are being made to statutory post by a statutory authority viz. selection committee constituted under Section 12 (3) of the RTI Act, 2005, it is felt that NOC from Election Commission of India is not required.

7. In view of commitment to the ECI for completion of selection process at the earliest, we may request Search Committee to conduct its meeting for shortlisting of candidates at the earliest after 25th March, 2014 which is last date for receiving of applications.


(R.K. Girdhar)
Under Secretary (RTI)
19.03.2014

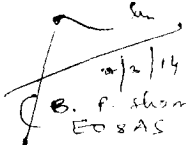
~~Dir (IR)~~ 
19/3

~~JS (A) (A)~~

Notes prepages.
Para 7 for soliciting date from Cabinet Secretary as Chairman of the Search Committee for shortlisting the candidates submitted for favour of consideration & onward submission please


19/3

~~EO (AS)~~
20/3/14

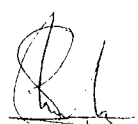

20/3/14
B. P. Sharma
EO & AS

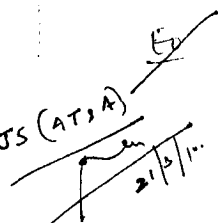
~~403/CSOM/14~~
28/3
4/4 - 12 noon


~~588/PEO~~
21/3/14

Cabinet Secretary
Secretary

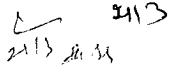
It has been decided that the meeting may be held on 4.4.2014 at 12 noon.


21/3/14
US (S)

~~JS (A) (A)~~

21/3/14

~~Dir (IR)~~ 


21/3

~~US (RTI)~~ 
21/3 21/3

PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 (F/A') had conveyed the approval of Hon'ble Prime Minister for the following:-

- (i) Action for selection of two ICs in CIC, may be initiated;
- (ii) The same procedure as was followed during the last selection of ICs, by issuing a draft circular for inviting applications and draft advertisement for newspapers as per draft submitted, may be followed; and
- (iii) The same Search Committee for appointment of the ICs, may continue.

2. Accordingly, an advertisement inviting particulars of interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC was published on the website of this Department on 25.02.2014 and in 2 leading English newspapers (Times of India and The Hindu) and one in one Hindi newspaper (Dainik Bhaskar) on 28.02.2014 and their editions throughout India. **The last date for receiving such applications was 25.03.2014.**

3. As regards formation of Search Committee, during last time the constitution was as under :

i. Cabinet Secretary	Chairman
ii. Principal Secretary to PM	Member
iii. Secretary (Higher Education)	Member
iv. Law Secretary	Member
v. Secretary (Personnel)	Member
vi. Ms. Amrita Patel, former Chairperson (NDDDB)	Member

It is pertinent to mention that Secretary (Personnel), a Member of Search Committee and he being one of the applicants for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC had requested to be recused from being Member of the Search Committee. PMO vide their ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 18.03.2014 (F/B') has conveyed the approval of Hon'ble PM for the nomination of Secretary, DAR&PG as member of the Search Committee in place of Secretary (P) and now the constitution of the Search Committee is as under :-

i. Cabinet Secretary	Chairman
ii. Principal Secretary to PM	Member
iii. Secretary (Higher Education)	Member*
iv. Law Secretary	Member
v. Secretary DAR&PG	Member
vi. Ms. Amrita Patel, former Chairperson (NDDDB)	Member

*Secretary (Higher Education) being a candidate for the said post needs to be recused from the search committee. The file is under submission to PMO for nomination of a Member in his place

4. In February, 2014 it was expected that the general election to the Lok Sabha could be announced anytime, it was brought to notice of the Election Commission of India by DoPT that the Government is making all efforts to complete the selection process by end of March, 2014. However, having regard to the nature of various activities involved in the process, it is likely that the entire process may spill over beyond March, 2014 by one or two weeks. It is pertinent to mention that the notification for Election and Model Code of Conduct for General Lok Sabha Election, 2014 has come into force w.e.f. 05th March, 2014. As per Election Commission's letter No. 437/6/2009-CC&BE dated 05.03.2009 (para 11) "Regular recruitment/appointment or promotion through the UPSC, State Public Service Commission or the Staff Selection Commission or any other statutory authority can continue. Recruitments through non-statutory bodies, will require prior clearance of the Commission. "

Since the appointments are being made to statutory post by a statutory authority viz. selection committee constituted under Section 12 (3) of the RTI Act, 2005, it is felt that NOC from Election Commission of India is not required.

5. A total number of 293 applications for the post of ICs in CIC have been received by the last date i.e. 25.03.2014. Those applications which were received as advance copy by 25.03.2014 have also been included. Such applications received through proper channel after 25.03.2014 have been attached with the advance copy. Fresh applications received after the cut-off date of 25.03.2014 have not been considered at all.

6. As per Section 12(5) of the RTI Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner and 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."

7. Accordingly, all these 293 applications have been broadly categorised into 7 categories of knowledge and experience, as mentioned above. Few applications which do not fall within these 7 categories, have been mentioned in "others" category. However, for the sake of categorisation, only the main field of knowledge and experience have been mentioned, while the additional fields of knowledge and experience, if any, have not been indicated. Tabulated details on the basis of such categorisation is at Annexure-I.

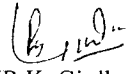
The category-wise distribution of these applications is as under:-


Category	No. of applications
Law	54
Science & Technology	34
Social Service	12
Management	35
Journalism	13
Mass Media	09
Administration and Governance	128
Others	08
Total	293

8. As per the practice followed during the last round of selection, after shortlisting/empanelling of applicants for the post of Information Commissioner by the Search Committee, IB and CBI report was called for all the persons whether serving or retired and for private citizens . In addition, for serving or retired govt. servants, clearance from the concerned cadre controlling authorities was also sought. MOS (PP) has approved that we may continue the procedure followed during the last round of selection viz. obtaining clearance from the respective Cadre Controlling Authorities, inputs from IB & CBI, without going to CVC."

DPA


9. Cabinet Secretariat at NP-10/ante, has informed that the meeting of the Search Committee will be held on 04.04.2014 at 12.00 noon. File is submitted for approval of Draft Agenda Note (with meeting notice) for circulation of the same to the members of the Search Committee (except Secretary (Higher Education)).




(R.K. Girdhar)
Under Secretary (RTI)
26.03.2014

Dir (IR) 
26/3


~~JSC (AREA)~~


~~EO & AS~~



27/3

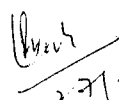
~~MOS (PP)~~ 
27/3/14

27/3/14

~~✓ E~~


27/3/14
~~JSC (AREA)~~


27/3

Dir (IR) 
27/3

US (RTI) 
27/3

in 11.

1000

F. No. 4/4/2014 - IR (Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training

Subject: -Selection of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission

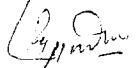
PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 has conveyed the approval of Hon'ble Prime Minister for continuation of the "Search Committee" during the current round of selection for appointment of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission as constituted during the last round of selection process, as given below:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1) Cabinet Secretary | Chairman |
| 2) Principal Secretary to PM | Member |
| 3) Secretary (Higher Education) | Member |
| 4) Law Secretary | Member |
| 5) Secretary (Personnel) | Member |
| 6) Ms Amrita Patel, former Chairperson (NDDB) | Member |

2. It is mentioned that Secretary (Higher Education), Sh. Ashok Thakur, who is a member of the Search Committee, is one of the applicants for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC.

3. It is pertinent to mention that Secretary (Personnel), a Member of Search Committee and he being one of the applicants for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC had requested to be recused from being Member of the Search Committee. PMO vide their ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 18.03.2014 (F/6) has conveyed the approval of Hon'ble PM for the nomination of Secretary, DAR&PG as member of the Search Committee in place of Secretary (P).

4. File is submitted for consideration of Hon'ble Prime Minister for nomination of another Member of Search Committee in place of Secretary (Higher Education).


(R.K. Girdhar)
Under Secretary
(20.03.2014)

Director (IR)


2013

JSCAT (A)

MOS(PP)


Secretary, Social Education

Shri Rajkirti Bhatta Chavla

re
may be appointed as member

in the place of Secretary

Higher Education


MOS(PP) 14

Secretary

2931606

Reference note on pre-pages.

2. PMO vide their ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 31.03.2014 (PUC) has conveyed the approval of Hon'ble PM for the nomination of Sh. Rajarshi Bhattacharya, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, as member of the Search Committee in place of Secretary (Higher Education). The constitution of Search Committee is now as under:-

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Cabinet Secretary | Chairman |
| 2. | Principal Secretary to PM | Member |
| 3. | Secretary (School Education & Literacy) | Member |
| 4. | Law Secretary | Member |
| 5. | Secretary (DAR&PG) | Member |
| 6. | Ms Amrita Patel, former Chairperson (NDDB) | Member |

3. It is pertinent to mention that Cabinet Secretariat vide their Note dated 28.03.2014 has intimated that meeting of the Search Committee, scheduled to be held on **04.04.2014 at 12.00 noon** in the Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, has been **postponed** and the date and time of the rescheduled meeting shall be intimated in due course of time. As already mentioned in the pre-note it was brought to the notice of Election Commission of India by DoPT that the Government is making all efforts to complete the selection process by end of March, 2014. However, having regard to the nature of various activities involved in the process, it is likely that the entire process may spill over beyond March, 2014 by one or two weeks. In view of commitment to the ECI for completion of selection process at the earliest, we may request Search Committee to conduct its meeting for shortlisting the candidates at the earliest.

Submitted please.

hm

(Sarita Nair)
Under Secretary (IR)
04.04.2014

*CS-4927/14
4/4/14
7/4/2014*

~~Director (IR)~~

Q 4/4

~~JSC AT & A~~

~~EO & AS~~

Q 4/4

F 4/4/14

C/S

We may convene mtg. quickly

As 4/4

*JS (AU)
Cabinet Secretariat*

The meeting is now scheduled on 26.04.2014 at 3.30 pm in the Committee room, Cabinet Secretariat.

USCRTI

JS (AT & A)

Q 4/4

EO

Q 9/4 Dir (IR)

Q 4/4

Q 4/4

No. 4/4/2014 - 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 21st April, 2014 at 16.30 hours in the Cabinet Secretariat. The minutes of the meeting are placed below.

PJ 114-115/c

2. The Search Committee decided that DoPT may seek reports from the Intelligence Bureau in respect of all the shortlisted persons and vigilance clearance from the respective Cadre Control Authorities. The Committee further decided that keeping in view the urgent need to fill the vacancies of Information Commissioners and that seeking reports from CVC would take considerable time, DoPT may seek reports in respect of all the shortlisted persons from the Central Bureau of Investigation as to whether these persons are under any investigation by the CBI.


DFA

3. Accordingly, DO ^{to} letters to Director, Intelligence Bureau and to Director, CBI are placed below for approval. ^{to} Letter to the respective Cadre Control Authorities (Viz. DoPT for IAS and CBEC for IRS(Customs)) for seeking vigilance clearance is also placed below for approval.

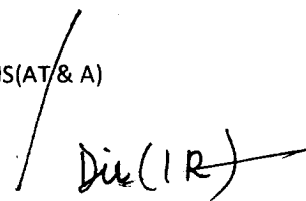
\$ F 'A'


4. It is pertinent to mention that Department of Personnel and Training has already given vigilance clearance in respect of Shri S. K. Sarkar, Secretary (P), while forwarding his application on 25th March, 2014. It appears that fresh vigilance clearance in r/o the said officer is not required.

Submitted please.


22/4
(Sandeep Jain)
Director (IR)
22/04/2014

JS(AT&A)


Dir (IR)


22/4

US (ATI)

Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

1. As per section 12 (2) of the Act, the Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, **not exceeding ten**, as may be deemed necessary. At present, the Central Information Commission has Chief Information Commissioner and 8 (Eight) Information Commissioners.

2. PMO has conveyed the approval of the Prime Minister for appointment of two posts of Information Commissioners in the current round of selection based on the earlier approved process.

3. PMO has also conveyed approval for a Search Committee, as given below:-

- | | | |
|--|---|----------|
| i. Cabinet Secretary | - | Chairman |
| ii. Principal Secretary to PM | - | Member |
| iii. Secretary (DARPG) | - | Member |
| iv. Secretary (School Education and Literacy) | - | Member |
| v. Law Secretary | - | Member |
| vi. Ms. Amrita Patel, former Chairperson
National Dairy Development Board | - | Member |

4. In February, 2014 it was expected that the general election to the Lok Sabha could be announced anytime, it was brought to notice of the Election Commission of India by DoPT that the Government is making all efforts to complete the selection process by end of March, 2014. However, having regard to the nature of various activities involved in the process, it is likely that the entire process may spill over beyond March, 2014 by one or two weeks. It is pertinent to mention that the notification for Election and Model Code of Conduct for General Lok Sabha Election, 2014 has come into force w.e.f. 05th March, 2014. As per Election Commission's letter No. 437/6/2009-CC&BE dated 05.03.2009 (para 11) "Regular recruitment/appointment or promotion through the UPSC, State Public Service Commission or the Staff Selection Commission or any other statutory authority can continue. Recruitments through non-statutory bodies, will require prior clearance of the Commission." Since the appointments are being made to statutory post by a statutory authority viz. selection committee constituted under Section 12 (3) of the RTI Act, 2005, it is felt that NOC from Election Commission of India is not required.

5. The Search Committee met on 21.04.2014 and after scrutinizing the particulars of the applicants and after detailed discussions, recommended the following 2 panels (in alphabetical order) for consideration of the Committee prescribed in section 12(3) of the RTI Act for making recommendations to the President for appointment of Information Commissioners:

PANEL I

- (I) Dr. Anuradha Verma
- (II) Shri Balwant Rai Mittal
- (III) Shri Syamal Kumar Sarkar

PANEL -II

- (I) Ms Praveen Mahajan
- (II) Shri R. Ramanujam
- (III) Shri Sukhpal Singh Kang

6. Keeping 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 DoPT may seek reports in respect of all the shortlisted persons from the Central Bureau of Investigation as to whether these persons are under any investigation by the CBI. The Committee also decided that DoPT may also obtain reports from the Intelligence Bureau in respect of all the shortlisted person and vigilance clearance from the respective Cadre Controlling Authorities.

7. Accordingly, inputs from IB, CBI and vigilance clearance from the concerned ministries/Cadre controlling authorities in r/o serving/retired Government Officers has been obtained. Nothing

Remarks of IB on one of the shortlisted persons. Exempted under Section 8(1)(j). Information being made available after making Section 10 of the RTI Act.

8. It is pertinent to mention that in a review petition filed by Union of India against Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement dated 13.09.2012 in Namit Sharma case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgement dated 03.09.2013, inter-alia, gave the following directions:-

(i) We direct that only persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in the fields mentioned in Sections 12 (5) and 15 (5) of the Act be considered for appointment as Information Commissioner and Chief Information Commissioner.

(ii) We further direct that persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in all the fields mentioned in Section 12 (5) and 15 (5) of the Act, namely, law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance, be considered by the Committee under Sections 12 (3) and 15 (3) of the Act for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner or Information Commissioners.

(iii) We further direct that the Committees under Section 12 (3) and 15 (3) of the Act while making recommendations to the President or to the Governor, as the case may be, for appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners must mention against the name of each candidate recommended, the facts to indicate his eminence in public life, his knowledge in the particular field and his experience in the particular field and these facts must be accessible to the citizens as part of their right to information under the Act after the appointment is made.


9. Section 12(3) of the Act stipulates that the Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of the following:

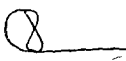
- (i) The Prime Minister who shall be the Chairman of the Committee,
- (ii) The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and
- (iii) A Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

10. PMO vide their ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 31.03.2014 has conveyed the approval of Law Minister (Sh. Kapil Sibal) on the "Selection Committee" for the selection of the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.


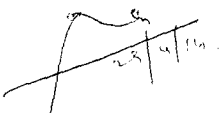
11. File is submitted for consideration of Hon'ble Prime Minister for convening a meeting of the Selection Committee for the purpose of selection of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission. Draft agenda note for the meeting is placed below for approval.

Submitted please.


 (R K Girdhar)
 Under Secretary (RTI)
 29/04/2014



 Dir (RTI) 29/4

~~JS (A & A)~~
~~EO & AS~~


 29/4

~~Hos (PP)~~

Secretary

top 3945068

Hon'ble Prime Minister may please refer
 we can have the meeting before 16.05.14
 Hon'ble Law Minister 

Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

As per section 12 (2) of the Act, the Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, **not exceeding ten**, as may be deemed necessary. At present, the Central Information Commission has Chief Information Commissioner and **7 (Seven)** Information Commissioners.

2. As per Section 12(3) of the Act, the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of—

- (i) the Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee;
- (ii) the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and
- (iii) a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Explanation.—For the purposes of removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that where the Leader of Opposition in the House of the People has not been recognised as such, the Leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government in the House of the People shall be deemed to be the Leader of Opposition.

3. As per past practice (followed during the last two selection of Information Commissioners), advertisement is given by DOPT in leading newspapers inviting thereby particulars of interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC. The particulars are tabulated and sent to a Search Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary. After shortlisting/empanelling of applicants by the Search Committee, IB and CBI reports are called for all the persons whether serving or retired and for private citizens. In addition, for serving or retired Government servants, clearance from the concerned cadre controlling authorities is also sought and CVC clearance is not obtained. The list of shortlisted candidates is sent to Selection Committee. The Information Commissioners are appointed by Hon'ble President on the recommendation made by the Selection Committee.

4. PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 **(F/A)** had conveyed the approval of Hon'ble Prime Minister for the following:-

- (i) Action for selection of two ICs in CIC, may be initiated;
- (ii) The same procedure as was followed during the last selection of ICs, by issuing a draft circular for inviting applications and draft advertisement for newspapers as per draft submitted, may be followed; and
- (iii) The same Search Committee for appointment of the ICs, may continue.

It is pertinent to mention that at that time, when approval of Hon'ble Prime Minister was received, the CIC had one Chief Information Commissioner and **8 (Eight)** Information Commissioners.

pg 30/c

5. Accordingly, an advertisement inviting particulars of interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC was published on the website of this Department on 25.02.2014 and in 2 leading English newspapers (Times of India and The Hindu) and one in one Hindi newspaper (Dainik Bhaskar) on 28.02.2014 and their editions throughout India. **The last date for receiving such applications was 25.03.2014.**

6. A total number of **293** applications for the post of ICs in CIC were received by the last date i.e. 25.03.2014.

7. As per Section 12(5) of the RTI Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner and 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.**"

8. Accordingly, all those 293 applications had been broadly categorised into 7 categories of knowledge and experience, as mentioned above. Few applications which do not fall within these 7 categories, had been mentioned in "others" category. However, for the sake of categorisation, only the main field of knowledge and experience had been mentioned, while the additional fields of knowledge and experience, if any, have not been indicated. Tabulated details on the basis of such categorisation is at **Annexure-I.**

The category-wise distribution of these applications is as under:-

Category	No. of applications
Law	54
Science & Technology	34
Social Service	12
Management	35
Journalism	13
Mass Media	09
Administration and Governance	128
Others	08
Total	293

9. PMO had also conveyed approval for a Search Committee, as given below:-

- i. Cabinet Secretary - Chairman
- ii. Principal Secretary to PM - Member
- iii. Secretary (DARPG) - Member
- iv. Secretary (School Education and Literacy) - Member
- v. Law Secretary - Member
- vi. Ms. Amrita Patel, former Chairperson - Member
National Dairy Development Board

10. The Search Committee met on 21.04.2014 and after scrutinizing the particulars of the applicants and after detailed discussions, recommended the following 2 panels (in alphabetical order) for consideration of the Committee prescribed in section 12(3) of the RTI Act for making recommendations to the President for appointment of Information Commissioners:

PANEL I

- (I) Dr. Anuradha Verma
- (II) Shri Balwant Rai Mittal
- (III) Shri Syamal Kumar Sarkar

PANEL -II

- (I) Ms Praveen Mahajan
- (II) Shri R. Ramanujam
- (III) Shri Sukhpal Singh Kang

11. Keeping 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 DoPT may seek reports in respect of all the shortlisted persons from the Central Bureau of Investigation as to whether these persons are under any investigation by the CBI. The Committee also decided that DoPT may also obtain reports from the Intelligence Bureau in respect of all the shortlisted person and vigilance clearance from the respective Cadre Controlling Authorities.

12. Accordingly, inputs from IB, CBI and vigilance clearance from the concerned ministries/Cadre controlling authorities in r/o serving/retired Government Officers has been obtained. Nothing adverse has been mentioned

*Remains of IB. Informal exempt
under Section 8(1)(j).*

13. It is also pertinent to mention that in a Review Petition filed by Union of India against Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement dated 13.09.2012 in Namit Sharma case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgement dated 03.09.2013, inter-alia, gave the following directions:-

(i) We direct that only persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in the fields mentioned in Sections 12 (5) and 15 (5) of the Act be considered for appointment as Information Commissioner and Chief Information Commissioner.

✓ Pg 114-115/c

✓ Pg 257/d

(ii) We further direct that persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in all the fields mentioned in Section 12 (5) and 15 (5) of the Act, namely, law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance, be considered by the Committee under Sections 12 (3) and 15 (3) of the Act for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner or Information Commissioners.

(iii) We further direct that the Committees under Section 12 (3) and 15 (3) of the Act while making recommendations to the President or to the Governor, as the case may be, for appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners must mention against the name of each candidate recommended, the facts to indicate his eminence in public life, his knowledge in the particular field and his experience in the particular field and these facts must be accessible to the citizens as part of their right to information under the Act after the appointment is made.

14. PMO vide their ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 31.03.2014 has conveyed the approval of the then Law Minister (Sh. Kapil Sibal) on the "Selection Committee" for the selection of the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. However, the meeting of Selection Committee could not be convened.

F13
02/09/14

15. File is submitted for consideration of Hon'ble Prime Minister for following:-

- (i) Nomination of a Union Cabinet Minister for Selection Committee.
- (ii) Indicating the date and time for convening the meeting of Selection Committee.

Submitted please.

(Signature)
(R K Girdhar)
Under Secretary (RTI)
28/05/2014

~~Dir (IR)~~

(Signature)
29/5

~~JS (AT & A)~~

(Signature)
29/5

~~EO & AS~~
20/5/14

Pl. *(Signature)*
29/5/14

~~MOS (PP)~~

~~JS (AT & A)~~

~~PM~~

spoken put up after
Parliament session *(Signature)*
2/6

~~USC (RTI)~~

~~Dir (IR)~~
(Signature)
31/5/14
2/6
Sh 47

Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

Reference - remarks of JS (AT&A) on prepage. Since the Parliament Session is over, file is submitted.

As per Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of—

- (i) the Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee;
- (ii) the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and
- (iii) a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Explanation.—For the purposes of removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that where the Leader of Opposition in the House of the People has not been recognised as such, the Leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government in the House of the People shall be deemed to be the Leader of Opposition.

2. Since at present the position of Leader of Opposition recognized in the Lok Sabha as well as the leader of the single largest group in opposition of the government in Lok Sabha is not clear, it is proposed to seek clarification from Lok Sabha Secretariat in this regard.

(R.K. Girdhar)
Under Secretary (RTI)
12.6.2014

Director (IR)

12/6

JS (AT&A)

JS (IR)

12/6

12/6

JS (RTI)

Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

Shri Rajiv Mathur, an Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner w.e.f. 22.5.2014. With his elevation as Chief Information Commissioner, the strength of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission has been reduced to **7 (Seven)**. As per section 12 (2) of the Act, the Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, **not exceeding ten**, as may be deemed necessary. The Government has already initiated action to fill up **2 (Two)** posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission. It is proposed to initiate action to fill up **1 (one)** more post of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission as per the approved procedure.

2. As per the procedure (followed during the last two selection of Information Commissioners), advertisement is given by DOPT in leading newspapers inviting thereby particulars of interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC. The particulars are tabulated and sent to a Search Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary. The other members of the Search Committee include Principal Secretary to PM, Law Secretary, Ms Amrita Patel, (former) Chairperson, National Dairy Development Board and few other Secretaries. After shortlisting/empanelling of applicants by the Search Committee, IB and CBI reports are called for all the persons whether serving or retired and for private citizens. In addition, for serving or retired Government servants, clearance from the concerned cadre controlling authorities is also sought and CVC clearance is not obtained. The list of shortlisted candidates is sent to Selection Committee.

3. As per Section 12(3) of the Act, the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of—

- (i) the Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee;
- (ii) the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and
- (iii) a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Explanation.—For the purposes of removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that where the Leader of Opposition in the House of the People has not been recognised as such, the Leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government in the House of the People shall be deemed to be the Leader of Opposition.

4. It is pertinent to mention that prior to the elevation of Shri Rajiv Mathur as Chief Information Commissioner, the Central Information Commission had 8 (Eight) Information Commissioners. Accordingly, PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 (F/'A') had conveyed the approval of the then Prime Minister for initiating action for selection of two ICs in CIC. Accordingly, the following actions were taken :

I. An advertisement inviting particulars of interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC was published on the website of this Department and in leading newspapers. A total number of **293** applications for the post of ICs in CIC were received by the last date.

II. The Search Committee met on 21.04.2014 and after scrutinizing the particulars of the applicants and after detailed discussions, recommended the following 2 panels (in alphabetical order) for consideration of the Selection Committee :

PANEL I

- (I) Dr. Anuradha Verma
- (II) Shri Balwant Rai Mittal
- (III) Shri Syamal Kumar Sarkar

PANEL -II

- (I) Ms Praveen Mahajan
- (II) Shri R. Ramanujam
- (III) Shri Sukhpal Singh Kang

III. The meeting of the Selection Committee chaired by the Prime Minister could not take place.

5. The file is now submitted for consideration of Hon'ble Prime Minister to initiate action to fill up one post of Information Commissioner as per the earlier approved procedure mentioned at para 2 above.

6. It is also submitted for consideration of Hon'ble Prime Minister as to whether instead of initiating action afresh to fill up one post of Information Commissioner, the (third) post may also be filled up from the existing applicants, who have applied against the advertisement for the earlier two posts. In such case, a meeting of the Search Committee could be called to suggest panel of names for the third post. Thereafter, all the three panels would be placed before the Selection Committee for final selection. However, the meeting of the Selection Committee can be convened after the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha has been recognized, else the leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government in Lok Sabha has been finalized. A clarification to this regard

✓ 13 11/12/14

has already been sought from the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Nomination of a Union Cabinet Minister to the Selection Committee would also be sought before convening the meeting of Selection Committee.

7. It is submitted for orders of Hon'ble Prime Minister as to whether the third post may be filled up after fresh advertisement or the third post may be filled up from the existing applicants, who have applied against the advertisement for the earlier two posts.

(Signature)

(R.K. Girdhar)
Under Secretary (RTI)
13.6.2014

8. Director (IR)

8
13/6

9. JS (AT / A)

10. EO/AS

(Signature)
13/6

(Signature)
13/6/14

MOS (PP)

11. The process filling up all the three vacancies of Information Commissioners may be initiated afresh.

16.6.2014
DR. JITENDRA SINGH
(MOS) PP

Secretary

12. Hon'ble PM has approved the recommendation of MOS (PP) at para 11 above that the process of filling up all the three vacancies of Information Commissioners be initiated afresh.

(Signature)
8/7

(V. SHESHADRI)
Director
Prime Minister's Office
South Block, New Delhi

Secretary, DPT.

PMO ID No. 600/311C/18/2014-ES-II

Dated 08/7/14

(Signature)
9/7
EO/AS
JS (AT/EA)

(Signature)
9/7
9.7.14
(Signature)

VSC (RTI)

WP-3973825

Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training
IR Division

Subject:- Selection of Information Commissioner/Chief Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission

As per section 12 (2) of the Act, the Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, **not exceeding ten**, as may be deemed necessary. At present, the Central Information Commission has Chief Information Commissioner and 7 (Seven) Information Commissioners. PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.II dated 08/07/2014 has intimated that Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the proposal that the process of filling up all the three posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission be initiated afresh.

✓ 12/3/14

2. It is pertinent to mention that the process followed during the last appointment of Information Commissioners is as under:

- I. A circular was posted on the website of DOPT seeking particulars of the interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners.
- II. An advertisement was also published in the 2 leading English newspapers (Times of India and The Hindu) and in one Hindi newspaper (Dainik Bhasker).
- III. The applications were tabulated by DoPT. After tabulation, the same were sent to the Search Committee.
- IV. The search committee recommended a panel of names to the selection committee.

✓
DFA-I
DFA-II

3. Accordingly, draft circular for inviting applications and draft advertisement for newspapers are placed below for approval. Since already 293 applicants have applied against the earlier circular dated 25/02/2014, it is proposed that those applicants are not asked to apply again. This would also avoid unnecessary litigations. However, it is proposed to take the view of Estt. Division also in this regard.

Submitted please.

hm

(Sarita Nair)
US - IR
10.7.2014

Dir (IR)

[Signature]
10/7

[Signature]
JS (A/RA)

[Signature]
JS (E)
10/7/14
10/7/14
10/7/14

[Signature]
10/7

[Signature]
11.7.14

**Department of Personnel and Training
Estt.(RR) Division**

F.No. 4/4/2014-IR(Main)

Reference note on pre-page :

IR Division, DoPT had initiated action to fill up two vacancies of Information Commissioners in the CIC. A total of 293 applications were received against the advertisement inviting particulars of interested persons for the post of ICs.

2. The Search Committee in its meeting on 21.4.2014 recommended two panels (6 candidates) for consideration of the Selection Committee. However, the meeting of the Selection Committee, to be chaired by the Prime Minister, could not take place.

3. In the meantime, with the elevation of Shri Rajiv Mathur, Information Commissioner as the CIC, one more vacancy of IC occurred. Hence, with the approval of the Prime Minister, it has been decided to initiate the process for filling up all the three vacancies of Information Commissioners afresh.

4. IR Division has sought the views of Establishment Division on their proposal that those 293 applicants, who had applied against the earlier circular, may not be asked to apply again.

5. As there is no change in the eligibility criteria, we may endorse the views of the IR Division.

Jitendra R. Gaikwad
11.7.14
(Jitendra R. Gaikwad)
Under Secretary (RR)
11.7.2014

~~Dir. (E-I)~~

~~JS(E)~~

~~JS(A&A)~~

Dir(IR)

Amend
11.7.14

11/7/14

slightly modified

11/7

Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training
IR Division

Subject:- Selection of Information Commissioner/Chief Information Commissioner In Central Information Commission

As per section 12 (2) of the Act, the Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, **not exceeding ten**, as may be deemed necessary. At present, the Central Information Commission has Chief Information Commissioner and 7 (Seven) Information Commissioners. PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.II dated 08/07/2014 has intimated that Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the proposal that the process of filling up all the three posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission be initiated afresh.

vp3/n

2. It is pertinent to mention that the process followed during the last appointment of Information Commissioners is as under:

- I. A circular was posted on the website of DOPT seeking particulars of the interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners.
- II. An advertisement was also published in the 2 leading English newspapers (Times of India and The Hindu) and in one Hindi newspaper (Dainik Bhasker).
- III. The applications were tabulated by DoPT. After tabulation, the same were sent to the Search Committee.
- IV. The search committee recommend panel of names to the selection committee.

4 DFA I
2 DFA II

3. Accordingly, draft circular for inviting applications and draft advertisement for newspapers are placed below for approval. Since already 293 applicants have applied against the earlier circular dated 25/02/2014, it is proposed that those applicants are not asked to apply again. This would also avoid unnecessary litigations. The views of Estt. Division have also been taken in this regard. Estt. Division has endorsed the views of this division. Slight modification in the draft circular has also been suggested by Estt. Division. Accordingly, modified draft circular is place below for approval.

4 Pg 33/n

Submitted please.

hnm

(Sarita Nair)
US - IR
11.07.2014

Dir (IR)

It is proposed that drafts may be

submitted for approval of MoS (PP).

~~JS (AT/A)~~

~~EO & AS~~
11/7/14

~~11/7~~
11/7

~~MoS (PP)~~
11/7/14

~~EO & AS~~
16/7/14

15.7.2014

~~14/7/14~~
~~JS (AT/A)~~

Sir (IR)

16/7

Department of Personnel & Training
IR Section

It has been proposed to fill up some more posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission. As per past practice an advertisement to this effect is given in the leading newspapers. Last time when the posts of five Information Commissioners were filled, advertisement was given in three newspaper viz. the Hindu and the Times of India, in English and Dainik Bhaskar in Hindi in all its editions in India. It is proposed that similar practice of giving advertisement in three newspapers may be followed this time also.

2. The estimated cost for releasing this Press advertisement in dailies has been sought from the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), which is amounting to Rs.3,77,727/-.

3. We may seek the concurrence of IFD before issue the LAO to the DAVP.

4. The expenditure will be debitable to Major Head 2052- Secretariat General Service - 00.090- Secretariat (Minor Head) - 05 - Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions - 05.01- Department of Personnel & Training - 05.01.26 - Advertising and Publicity - Demand No. 73 under Non-Plan for the year 2014-15.

5. Before seeking the concurrence of IFD, kind approval of JS(AT&A) is solicited for issuing LOA of an amount of Rs.3,77,727/- in favour of DAVP.

ETA

Manoj
10/7/14

S.O. (RTI)
1

AS & FA
10/7/2014

US (RTI) - on leave

US (IR) - hm
10/7

Dir (IR)
B
10/7

JS (AT & A)

AS & FA
10/7

AS & FA

We may consider.

JS (AT & A)

11.7.14
(S. C. PANDYA,
AS & FA (H))

11/7

US (RTI)

14/7

Dir (TR)

Secy (P)
14/7

JS (AT & A)

12.7.14

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DV No. 3682/14
M. 11/7/14
OUT 11/7/14

Subject:-Selection of Information Commissioner/Chief Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission

As per section 12 (2) of the Act, the Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, **not exceeding ten**, as may be deemed necessary. PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 (F/'A') had conveyed the approval of the then Prime Minister to initiate action for selection of two Information Commissioners (ICs) in CIC. It is pertinent to mention that at that time, when approval of the then Prime Minister was received, the CIC had one Chief Information Commissioner and **8 (Eight)** Information Commissioners.

✓ FIB
(12/16/c)

2. Accordingly, an advertisement inviting particulars of interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC was published on the website of this Department on 25.02.2014 and also in 2 leading English newspapers and one in one Hindi newspaper. **The last date for receipt of applications was 25.03.2014.** A total number of **293** applications for the post of ICs in CIC were received.

3. PMO had also conveyed approval for a Search Committee, as given below:-

- | | | | |
|------|---|---|----------|
| i. | Cabinet Secretary | - | Chairman |
| ii. | Principal Secretary to PM | - | Member |
| iii. | Secretary (Personnel) | - | Member |
| iv. | Secretary
(School Education and Literacy) | - | Member |
| v. | Law Secretary | - | Member |
| vi. | Ms. Amrita Patel, Chairperson
National Dairy Development Board | - | Member |

4. The applications were placed before the Search Committee, which met on 21.04.2014 and recommended panels for consideration of the Selection Committee. The meeting of the Selection Committee could not take place.

✓ F/D
(12/115/c)

5. In the meanwhile, with the elevation of Sh Rajiv Mathur (then Information Commissioner) to the Chief Information Commissioner, the strength of the Information Commissioners was reduced to 7 (Seven). PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.II dated 08/07/2014 has intimated that Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the proposal that the process of filling up all the three posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission be initiated afresh.

✓ F/C
(12/115/c)

6. Accordingly, a circular was posted on the website of DOPT on 16/07/2014 seeking particulars of the interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners. It was mentioned in the circular that those who had applied against the earlier circular dated 28/02/2014 need not apply afresh. An advertisement was also published in the 2 leading English newspapers (Times of India and The Hindu) and in one Hindi newspaper (Dainik Bhasker).

2-10-2014

7. A total number of 260 fresh applications for the post of ICs in CIC have been received by the last date i.e. 19/08/2014, thereby making the total to 293 + 260 = 553. Applications received after the cut-off date of 19/08/2014 are not being considered.

8. As per Section 12(5) of the RTI Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner and 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."

9. Accordingly, all these 553 applications have been broadly categorised into 7 categories of knowledge and experience, as mentioned above. Few applications which do not fall within these 7 categories, have been mentioned in "others" category. However, for the sake of categorisation, only the main field of knowledge and experience have been mentioned, while the additional fields of knowledge and experience, if any, have not been indicated. Tabulated details on the basis of such categorisation is at **Annexure-I.**

10. The category-wise distribution of these applications is as under:-


Category	No. of applications
Law	98
Science & Technology	64
Social Service	27
Management	70
Journalism	29
Mass Media	13
Administration and Governance	233
Others	19
Total	553

11. The earlier process followed for selection of Information Commissioners is as under:

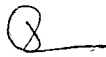
- I. After tabulation of applications by DoPT, the same were sent to the Search Committee.
- II. The Search Committee recommended panel of names to the Selection Committee.

12. The file is submitted for consideration of Hon'ble Prime Minister as to whether the earlier procedure followed may continue and also whether the same search committee as mentioned at para '3', may continue.

Submitted please.


 (Kulbhusan Malhotra)
 US - RTI
 25.8.2014

Director IR

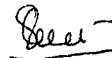

 25/8

JJ (AT & A)
 of Hon'ble PM


Para 12 for kind consideration


 25/8

secy (P)


 26/8/2014

MOF (PP)


 3.09.2014

Prime Minister

Subject:- Selection of Information Commissioner/Chief Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission

As per section 12 (2) of the Act, the Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and such number of Central Information Commissioners, **not exceeding ten**, as may be deemed necessary. PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 (F/A) had conveyed the approval of the then Prime Minister to initiate action for selection of two Information Commissioners (ICs) in CIC. It is pertinent to mention that at that time, when approval of the then Prime Minister was received, the CIC had one Chief Information Commissioner and **8 (Eight)** Information Commissioners.

✓ (Pg 30/c)

o F/B
(Pg 16/c)

2. Accordingly, an advertisement inviting particulars of interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners in the CIC was published on the website of this Department on 25.02.2014 and also in 2 leading English newspapers and one in one Hindi newspaper. **The last date for receipt of applications was 25.03.2014.** A total number of **293** applications for the post of ICs in CIC were received.

3. PMO had also conveyed approval for a Search Committee, as given below:-

- | | | |
|---|---|----------|
| i. Cabinet Secretary | - | Chairman |
| ii. Principal Secretary to PM | - | Member |
| iii. Secretary (Personnel) | - | Member |
| iv. Secretary
(School Education and Literacy) | - | Member |
| v. Law Secretary | - | Member |
| vi. Ms. Amrita Patel, Chairperson
National Dairy Development Board | - | Member |

4. The applications were placed before the Search Committee, which met on 21.04.2014 and recommended panels for consideration of the Selection Committee. The meeting of the Selection Committee could not take place.

o F/D
(Pg 115/c)

5. In the meanwhile, with the elevation of Sh Rajiv Mathur (then Information Commissioner) to the Chief Information Commissioner, the strength of the Information Commissioners was reduced to 7 (Seven). PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.II dated 08/07/2014 has intimated that Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the proposal that the process of filling up all the three posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission be initiated afresh.

o F/C
2014/14/19
2014/14/19

6. Accordingly, a circular was posted on the website of DOPT on 16/07/2014 seeking particulars of the interested persons for the post of Information Commissioners. It was mentioned in the circular that those who had applied against the earlier circular dated 28/02/2014 need not apply afresh. An advertisement was also published in the 2 leading English newspapers (Times of India and The Hindu) and in one Hindi newspaper (Dainik Bhasker).

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9. Accordingly, all these 553 applications have been broadly categorised into 7 categories of knowledge and experience, as mentioned above. Few applications which do not fall within these 7 categories, have been mentioned in "others" category. However, for the sake of categorisation, only the main field of knowledge and experience have been mentioned, while the additional fields of knowledge and experience, if any, have not been indicated. Tabulated details on the basis of such categorisation is at **Annexure-I**.

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Journalism	29
Mass Media	13
Administration and Governance	233
Others	19
Total	553

OIA
(D 294/C)


11. PMO vide vide ID number 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 22.9.2014 has approved the following :-

- a) The earlier practice of having a Search Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary to scrutinize the applications and shortlist candidates for consideration of the Selection Committee may continue.
- b) The Search Committee may comprise the following:

- (i) Cabinet Secretary - Chairman
 - (ii) Addl Principal Secretary to PM - Member
 - (iii) Secretary (Personnel) - Member
 - (iv) Secretary (I&B) - Member
 - (v) Law Secretary - Member
 - (vi) Professor Ramesh Chand - Member
- National Center for Agricultural Economics and Policy (NCAP)

12. Accordingly, the file is submitted to solicit the convenience of Cabinet Secretary for holding the meeting of the Search Committee for shortlisting the candidates. A draft Agenda Note is also placed below for kind perusal.

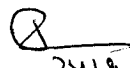
✓ DFA

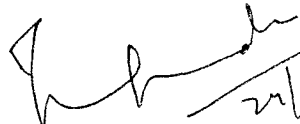

 (Kulbhushan Malhotra)
 US - RTI
 24.9.2014

~~(SANDEEP JAIN)~~
 Director IR

CS-15235/14
 25/9/14

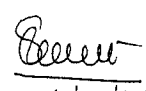
JS (E) - (as L.O.)


 24/9


 24/9/14

1342/15(100)/14
 1/10

Secretary (P)
 Cabinet Secretary



 24/9/2014
 (Sanjay Kothari)
 Secretary (P)

JS (CS) / JS
 @ RA report date
 24/9/14

Draft Agenda Note


It has been desired that the meeting may be scheduled on 16.10.2014 at 5.00 pm.

Secretary (P)
 NITD
 PSO / JS (P/EA)


 9/10/2014
 7/10/14
 us (CS)
 24/9/10

Ref:- noting of pre-page.

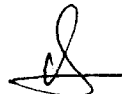
2. DFA pl.


8/x/14

~~Dis (IR)~~

The mtg of the Search Committee was scheduled for 16th 8/x/14 at 5:00 pm. CAB Sect^r has now intimated that the mtg is postponed and all members of the committee are intimated. DFA pl.

✓ 'FR'


13/x/14

~~Dis (IR)~~


13/14

US (RTI)

-44-

Ref. nos on page.

Cab. Sectt. may be requested to intimate
fresh date and time of meeting of
Search Committee. Communication is placed
below for app/ sign.

(Sandeep)
08/12/2014.

Dir (PR)

8

8/12
SANDEEP JAIN
Director (PR)

JS (AT & A)

Ar
8/12

ARCHANA VARMA
Jt. Secretary (A & S)

Dir (IR)

8
10/12

US (RTI)

letter not 1st
(Ar)

Appointment of ICs hereafter
has been dealt within file no 4/7/2014-12