Disclosure of Information is subject to exemptions under Section 8(i)(j) and Section 10(i) of the RTI Act, 2005.
Subject:- Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

In exercise of the powers given by Section 12 (1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, (Act) the Government has constituted the Central Information Commission. As per sub-section (2) of Section 12 of the Act, the Commission shall consist of one Chief Information Commissioner and upto 10 Central Information Commissioners. At present there is one Chief Information Commissioner and eight Information Commissioner in the Commission.

2. Section 13 (1) of the Act provides that the Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of 5 years from the date on which he/she enters upon his/her office or till he/she attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for re-appointment.

3. Section 12 (3) of the Act stipulates that the Chief Information Commissioner 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 Opposition in the Lok Sabha: and
(iii) The Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

4. The present strength of the Central Information Commission is as under:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Date of Appointment</th>
<th>Date of retirement</th>
<th>Field of Excellence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Shri Rajiv Mathur, IC</td>
<td>23.08.1949</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>22.08.2014</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Shri Vijay Sharma, IC</td>
<td>02.12.1950</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>01.12.2015</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Shri Basant Seth, IC</td>
<td>16.02.1952</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>15.02.2017</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CVs of the above Information Commissioners as downloaded from the website of CIC may please be seen at Flag 'A'.

5. It is pertinent to mention here that PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 (F/N: B) had conveyed the approval of Hon'ble Prime Minister for appointment of two Information Commissioners in CIC. Accordingly, the Government has initiated action separately for the same also.
6. The Chief Information Commissioner is due for retirement on 21.05.2014 and in order to make appointment of new Chief Information Commissioner in the CIC in time, file is submitted for:

(i) Nomination of a Union Cabinet Minister for Selection Committee u/s 12 (3) of the Act; and
(ii) a convenient date of meeting of Selection Committee.

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

Director (IR)
Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

In exercise of the powers given by Section 12 (1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the Government has constituted the Central Information Commission. As per sub-section (2) of Section 12 of the Act, the Commission shall consist of one Chief Information Commissioner and ten Central Information Commissioners. At present there is one Chief Information Commissioner and eight Information Commissioners in the Commission.

2. Section 13 (1) of the Act provides that the Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he/she enters upon his/her office or till he/she attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for re-appointment.

3. Section 12 (3) of the Act stipulates that the Chief Information Commissioner 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 Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and
(iii) The Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

4. The present strength of the Central Information Commission is as under:

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<th>Date of retirement</th>
<th>Field of Excellence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mrs. Sushma Singh Chief Information Commissioner</td>
<td>22.05.1949</td>
<td>19.12.2013 till date as CIC</td>
<td>21.05.2014</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(23.09.2009 to 18.12.2013 as IC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Smt. Rajiv Madhul, IC</td>
<td>23.08.1949</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>22.08.2014</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Smt. Vipul Sharma, IC</td>
<td>02.12.1938</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>01.12.2015</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Smt. Basant Seth, IC</td>
<td>16.02.1952</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>15.02.2017</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Smt. Majhola Prashar, IC</td>
<td>16.01.1953</td>
<td>22.12.2015</td>
<td>15.01.2016</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CVs of the above Information Commissioners as downloadable from the website of CIC may please be seen at Flag 'A'.

5. It is pertinent to mention here that PMO vide ID no. 690/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 (File 'B') had conveyed the approval of Hon'ble Prime Minister for appointment of two Information Commissioners in CIC. Accordingly, the Government has informed the
The Chief Information Commissioner is due for retirement on 21.02.2014 and in order to make appointment of a new Chief Information Commissioner in the CIC in time, file is submitted for:

(i) Nomination of a Union Cabinet Minister for Selection Committee u/s 12 (3) of the Act; and
(ii) a convenient date of meeting of Selection Committee.

Director (H)  

Subject to the convenience of Hon. PM, the date may be on 3rd April 2014.

V. Narayanasamy
(Mos) PP

The Honourable Prime Minister has approved nomination of the Law Minister on the Selection Committee.

Dheeraj Gupta
Joint Secretary
Prime Minister's Office
New Delhi
Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

The present Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission shall retire on 21.5.2014 and a new Chief Information Commissioner has to be appointed in her place by 21.5.2014.

2. Section 12(3) of the Act stipulates that the Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners shall be appointment 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.

3. The Prime Minister has nominated Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister for Law and Justice on the Selection Committee. The composition of the Selection Committee will be as under:

(i) The Prime Minister who shall be the Chairman of the Committee,
(ii) The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and
(iii) Union Minister for Law and Justice.

4. The tentative date for the meeting of Selection Committee as mentioned by MOS (PP), on page 4 ante, is 30th April, 2014.

5. As desired by Secretary (P), a draft agenda note and a meeting notice is placed below for approval.

\[\text{(R.K. Girdhar)}\]
\[\text{Under Secretary (RTI)}\]
\[15.04.2014\]

\[\text{Draft agenda note} \]
\[\text{Should be finalized for consideration} \]
\[15/4\]

\[\text{MOS (PP)}\]

\[\text{P Top}\]
Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

The present Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission shall retire on 21.5.2014 and a new Chief Information Commissioner has to be appointed in his place by 21.5.2014.

2. 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,
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   (ii) The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and
   (iii) Union Minister for Law and Justice.

4. The tentative date for the meeting of Selection Committee as mentioned by MOS (PP) on page 4 ante is 30th April, 2014.

5. As desired by Secretary (P), a draft agenda note and a meeting notice is placed below for approval.

\[\text{Signature}\]

(R.K. Girdhar)  
Under Secretary (RI)
18.04.2014

\[\text{Signature}\]

(Secretary)

\[\text{Signature}\]

V. Narayanasamy
(MOS) PP
No. F. 4/7/2014-IR  
Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions  
Department of Personnel & Training  

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

In exercise of the powers given by Section 12(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the Government has constituted the Central Information Commission. As per sub-section (2) of Section 12 of the Act, the Commission shall consist of one Chief Information Commissioner and upto 10 Central Information Commissioners. At present there is one Chief Information Commissioner and eight Central Information Commissioners in the Commission. Smt. Sushma Singh, present Chief Information Commissioner, is retiring on 21.05.2014. It has been decided to appoint a new Chief Information Commissioner in place of Smt. Sushma Singh.

2. Section 13(1) provides that the Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of 5 years from the date on which he/she enters upon his/her office or till he/she attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for re-appointment.

3. Section 12(3) of the Act stipulates that the Chief Information Commissioner 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 Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and
(iii) the Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

4. Accordingly the Committee was constituted with the following composition to recommend the name of a suitable person for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner:

(i) the Prime Minister
(ii) the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and
(iii) the Minister for Law & Justice.

5. The Committee considered the proposal on 1st May, 2014 and recommended the name of Shri Rajiv Mathur for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.
6. Agenda note for the meeting and the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee are placed at Flag 'A' and 'B' respectively.

7. The Prime Minister may approve the recommendation made by the Selection Committee and may recommend to the Hon'ble President to approve the appointment of Shri Rajiv Mathur as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

(Shri V. Narayanasamy)
MOS(PP)
1/15/14

Prime Minister
Manmohan Singh
3.5.2014

President
21/5/2014

Minister of State (PP) (Sh. V. Narayanasamy)
President's Secretariat J.D.No E.156258-(M2)/Secy dd.
6-5-14

Secy
6-5-14

Dts(RK)
6-15

US (RTI)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training
IR Division

Subject:- Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

The Committee consisting of (i) The Prime Minister (ii) the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and (iii) Sh. Kapil Sibal, the Minister for Law and Justice under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister met on 1st May, 2014 to consider the proposal for the appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission and recommended the name of Shri Rajiv Mathur for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. Hon'ble President has approved the appointment.

2. Following draft D.O. letters are placed below for approval:-

a) Offer of Appointment to the new Chief Information Commissioner (A).

b) D.O. letter from JS (AT&A) to Additional Secretary (President Secretariat) to inform the date and time of administering Oath to the new Chief Information Commissioner (B) along with List of invitees for swearing in ceremony of Chief Information Commissioner.

Sindhe D.O. letters were issued in the post also.

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

JS (AT & A) Please link with the last file & please examine if ceremonial functions can be held during the process of elections?

Dir (IR)

US (RRI)
Ref. no. 2 A 2008/2094/2008/2094 on file

1. List for file no. 4/12/2013-1R dated 11/03/2013 is placed below.

2. Data della police action was given by Yvonne Boivin on 3/1/2013.

Submit for approval of two drafts dated 12/15/2014.

Moreover, the oath ceremony would be held after 21st May. 2014 (Supervision of Int. Section High, 11C) and by that time, the process of elections would be over.

JS (AT & A)

See P

JS (AT & A)

Dir. (12)

US (RTI)
incident, but has informed that an order will be placed to administer Oath to me, Chief H.O. Commissioner (Designate) in Rajiv Medini at 11:30 hrs on 23rd May, 2014 in Room B, Rajiv Medini in the meantime Shri R. Shanker has informed in acceptance to the appointment as Chief H.O. Commissioner in the CIC.

(Shri Shanker)

23rd May, 2014.
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training
IR Division

Subject:- Notification in respect of Shri Rajiv Mathur, Chief Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission

Shri Rajiv Mathur has been administered the oath of office as Chief Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission by his excellency, Hon'ble President of India today the 22nd May, 2014. A notification to this effect has to be issued and a draft notification is placed below for vetting by Department of Legislative Affairs. A copy of notification issued in respect of Smt. Sushma Singh, the previous Chief Information Commissioner, is also placed below for ready reference.

(R.K. Giridhar)
Under Secretary (RTI)

[Signature]

[Initials]

[Signature]

[Initials]

[Signature]

[Initials]

Legislative Department (K:4 Attm. : Dr. Sujay Singh)

The draft notification is formally in order.

[Sujay Singh]

[Initials]

22/5/14

DOPT

[Signature]

[Initials]

[Signature]

[Initials]

[Signature]

[Initials]
OL Wing, Legislative Department is requested to make the Hindi version of the vetted notification urgently.

OL Wing, LEG. DEPT.
संलग्न अविस्मरण का हिंदी पाठ तैयार कर दिया गया है कृपया संबंधित मंत्रलय/विभाग यह सुनिश्चित कर से कि तैयार हिंदी पाठ उनकी अफस्साओं के अनुरूप है।

राजमार्ग खंड खाली, 377/2014-अनुमा 1 तारीख 25/5/14 शाही भवन, नई दिल्ली

श्रेयस् विनम्र, श्री आर्यसेन सिंह

जयवर्धन छायावेदी

[सार्वजनिक] चौथे अदालत

25/5/14
Subject: Appointment of Information Commissioners in the CIC.

Main file is under submission.

In response to this Department's letter of even number dated 12.06.2014, Lok Sabha Secretariat vide its note dated 19.06.2014 (FR) has informed that there is no Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha. Indian National Congress with strength of 44 members is, however, the single largest party in opposition to the Govt. in Lok Sabha and Sh. Mallikarjun Kharge is the Leader of Indian National Congress in Lok Sabha.

Submitted for information and direction pl.

The main file is under submission.

The clarification given by Lok Sabha Secretariat has not still given a clear picture about who is the leader of the single largest group in opposition to the Government in Lok Sabha.

It is examined & put up.

[Signature]

[Date: 25.6.14]

[Signature]

[Date: 25.6.14]
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
(Department of Personnel and Training)

**Subject:** - Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

The present Chief Information Commissioner of the Central Information Commission, Shri Rajiv Mathur, will be completing his tenure on 22.8.2014. Action is required to be initiated for appointment of a new Chief Information Commissioner in his place.

2. The Government has constituted the Central Information Commission in exercise of the powers under Section 12 (1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005. As per sub-section (2) of Section 12 of the Act, the Commission shall consist of one Chief Information Commissioner and up to 10 Central Information Commissioners. At present there is one Chief Information Commissioner and seven Information Commissioners in the Commission.

3. As per Section 12(5) of the RTI Act, 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. Section 12(6) of the Act provides that the Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory, as the case may be, or hold any office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

4. Section 13 (1) of the Act provides that the Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of 5 years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall not be eligible for reappointment. It has been further provided that no Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office as such after he has attained the age of sixty-five years.

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

(i) The Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairman 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.

5.1 Further, as per explanation below Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005, for the purposes of removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that where the leader of the 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.

6. It may be mentioned here that after the new Government took over, a reference was made to the Lok Sabha to confirm about the leader of the Opposition. The Lok Sabha vide their U.O.No. 46/2/2014/IT(B) dated 19.6.2014, has informed that as on date there is no leader of
opposition in Lok Sabha. Indian National Congress with a strength of 44 members is, however, the single largest party in opposition to the Government in Lok Sabha. As per information received from the party, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge is the leader of Indian National Congress in Lok Sabha. Since there is no clarity about the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, a clarification has been sought from the Department of Legal Affairs as to whether the leader of the single largest party can be treated as Leader of the single largest group in the Lok Sabha for the purpose of Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005. The requisite clarification is awaited from the D/o Legal Affairs.

7. For appointment of Chief Information Commissioner, the earlier practice had been that CIC is appointed from amongst the existing ICs. During the initial appointment of Chief Information Commissioner, the name of Shri Wajahat Habibullah was recommended by the Selection Committee for the position of Chief Information Commissioner. Regarding subsequent appointments of Chief Information Commissioners, Shri A.N. Tiwari, Shri Satyanand Mishra and Smt. Sushma Singh were Information Commissioners, before their appointment as Chief Information Commissioners. Even the present CIC, Shri Rajiv Mathur was an Information Commissioner before his appointment as Chief Information Commissioner. Their names were recommended by the Selection Committee for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner, as per the proceedings of the Committee.

7.1 Applications were never called for the post of Chief Information Commissioner in the past. It is also pertinent to mention here that a resolution had been passed by the Information Commissioners of the Central Information Commission in September, 2010 recommending that the successor of CIC should be from the existing ICs. A copy of the resolution is also placed below. (Flag ‘B’)

8. The present strength of the Central Information Commission is as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Date of Appointment</th>
<th>Date of retirement</th>
<th>Field of Excellence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Shri Rajiv Mathur, Chief IC</td>
<td>23.08.1949</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>22.08.2014</td>
<td>Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Shri Vajai Sharma, IC</td>
<td>02.12.1950</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>01.12.2015</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Shri Basant Seth, IC</td>
<td>16.02.1952</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>15.02.2017</td>
<td>Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. CVs of the above mentioned seven Information Commissioners as downloaded from the website of CIC may please be seen at Flag ‘A’.
10. Since the present CIC is due to retire w.e.f. 22.8.2014 and there is a need to make appointment of the new CIC in time, the file is submitted for:

(i) Nomination of a Union Cabinet Minister for the Selection Committee u/s 12(3) of the RTI Act; and

(ii) A convenient date for holding of the meeting of the Selection Committee.

US (RTI) - on leave

US (IR) / 10/17

Div (IR) / 8 / 10/17

JS (AFT A)

Notes prepaees. Pending clarification from DoLA in view of explanation below section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005, as at para 5.1 at 15 Naas, para 10 above for kind consideration of Hon'ble Prime Minister please.

Secy(r)

14.7.14

MoS (CPD)

2/7 / 15.7.2014

Prime Ministrer
PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE

South Block,
New Delhi – 110 011

Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

Reference is invited to the note dated 15.07.2014 of Department of Personnel & Training on file No. 4/7/2014-IR on the subject cited above.

2. The Prime Minister has nominated Shri Arun Jaitley, Union Cabinet Minister of Finance, Corporate Affairs and Defence, as the Member of the Selection Committee under of Section 12(3) of the RTI Act.

3. The undersigned is directed to convey that the matter shall be resubmitted for a decision on date of meeting of Selection Committee, after the issue raised in para 6 of the aforesaid note is decided.

4. The file/folder No. 4/7/2014-IR of the Department of Personnel & Training is returned herewith.

(V. Sheshadri)
Director
Tel. No. 2301 3485

Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training

PMO ID no. 600/31/CR 2013-14/ES.2 (vol.3) Dated. 21.07.2014
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions  
Department of Personnel & Training  
(IR Section)  

***

Subject:- Information regarding Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha

This Department is in process of appointment of Information Commissioners. The main file in the matter is under submission.

2. According to 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.”

3. It has been explained that “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 recognized 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. Being the new Government, we had wrote to Lok Sabha Secretariat to confirm the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Vide U.O. No.46/2/2014/T(B) dated 19th June, 2014, Lok Sabha Secretariat has informed that “as on date, there is no Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha. Indian National Congress with a strength of 44 members is, however, the single largest party in opposition to the Government in Lok Sabha. As per information received from the party, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge is the Leader of Indian National Congress in Lok Sabha.”

5. In this connection, it may be noted that as per RTI Act, in the absence of Leader of opposition, the Leader of the single largest group in opposition shall be deemed to be the leader of opposition, while Shri Mallikarjun Kharge is the Leader of Indian National Congress in Lok Sabha which is the single largest party in opposition in Lok Sabha.
6. Since there is no clarity about Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, we may seek the advice of Department of Legal Affairs as to whether the Leader of single largest party in opposition can be considered as Leader of the single largest group in opposition, in Lok Sabha, for the sake of section 12(3) of RTI Act.

Submitted please.

JS (AT & A)

S:\nLD

JS (AT & A)

Department of Legal Affairs

Shri D. Bhavna, Joint Secretary

Anvita Bhavan, New Delhi.

DoPT U.O. No. 4/4/2014-1R(PF) dt 8.7.2014
DoPT has sought our advise on the issue as to whether the Leader of single largest party in opposition can be considered as Leader of single largest group in opposition, Lok Sabha for the sake of section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 (the Act).

2. The background of the case in which the issue arises is that the DoPT vide O.M. No. 4/4/2014-IR dated 12.6.2014 (PUC) requested the Lok Sabha Secretariat to clarify ‘whether any leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha has been recognized. If the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha has not been recognized as such, it is requested to kindly intimate the name of the leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government in Lok Sabha, for the purpose of selection of Information Commissioners as per the RTI Act.’ and in response there to the Lok Sabha Secretariat vide their communication dated 19.6.2014 (p.2/N) stated that ‘As on date, there is no Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha. Indian National Congress with a strength of 44 members is, however, the single largest party in opposition to the Government in Lok Sabha. As per information received from the party, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge is the Leader of India National Congress in Lok Sabha.’

3. Section 12 of the Act deals with the Constitution of the Central Information Commission and sub section (3) of this section provides the procedure for appointments of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs). For ready reference, section 12(3) of the Act is reproduced below:

‘(3) 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. The explanation given below to section 12(3) of the Act provides that in the absence of recognised Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Leader of single largest group in opposition of the Government in the House of the People shall be deemed to be the Leader of Opposition.

5. The terms “recognised group” and “recognised party” are defined under section 2 of the Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998 (Act of 1999) and read as under:

‘2. Definition. - In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) “recognised group” means,-

(i) ...................

(ii) in relation to the House of the People, every party which has a strength of not less than thirty members and not more than fifty-four members in the House;
(b) "recognised party" means,-

(i) ..................
(ii) in relation to the House of the People, every party which has a strength of not less than fifty-five members in the House.

6. Section 3 of Act of 1999 deals with facilities of the Leaders, Deputy Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised groups and parties and stipulates that subject to any rules made in this behalf by the Central Government, each leader, deputy leader and each chief whip of a recognised group and a recognised party shall be entitled to telephone and secretarial facilities provided such Leader, Deputy Leader or Chief Whip is not fallen in the categories mentioned below this section.


"2. Definition. - In this Act,"Leader of the Opposition", in relation to either House of Parliament, means that member of the Council of States or the House of the People, as the case may be, who is, for the time being, the Leader in that House of the party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised as such by the Chairman of the Council of States or the Speaker of the House of the People, as the case may be.

Explanation. - Where there are two or more parties in opposition to the Government, in the Council of States or in the House of the People having the same numerical strength, the Chairman of the Council of States or the Speaker of the House of the People, as the case may be, shall, having regard to the status of the parties, recognise any one of the Leaders of such parties as the Leader of the Opposition for the purposes of this section and such recognition shall be final and conclusive."

8. Each Leader of Opposition has statutory recognition and entitled for certain facilities and amenities to enable him to discharge his function in the Parliament as mandated under Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 8A of the Act of 1977.

9. Parliamentary system works on precedents and practices. The Act of 1977 provides for the Leader of parties in opposition having the greatest numerical strength and recognized as such by the Speaker / Chairman being recognized as LOP. Direction No. 120 of directions by the Speaker Lok Sabha (the directions) stipulates that 'the Speaker may recognize an Association of Members as a Parliamentary Party or Group for the purpose of functioning in the House and his decision shall be final.' Speaker’s recognition is governed by the direction No. 121 of the directions which provide as under:

'Conditions for recognition

121. In recognising a Parliamentary Party or Group the Speaker shall take into consideration the following principles:-

(I) An association of members who propose to form a Parliamentary Party-

(a) shall have announced at the time of the general elections a distinct ideology and programme of Parliamentary work on which they have been returned to the House;

(b) shall have an organisation both inside and outside the House; and
(c) shall have at least a strength equal to the quorum fixed to constitute a sitting of the House, that is one-tenth of the total number of members of the House.

(ii) An association of members to form a Parliamentary Group shall satisfy the conditions specified in parts (a) and (b) of clause (i) and shall have at least a strength of 30 members.'

10. The term ‘single largest group in opposition’ is not defined either under the RTI Act or Act No. 5/1999 or Act No. 33/1977 or in the compilation of “Directions by the Speaker Lok Sabha.” The matter has been examined in the DoPT in light of information dated 19.6.2014 provided by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. In para 5 of DoPT’s note (p.3/n), it is mentioned that ‘as per RTI Act, in the absence of Leader of opposition, the Leader of the single largest group in opposition shall be deemed to be the leader of opposition, while Shri Mallikarjun Kharge is the Leader of Indian National Congress in Lok Sabha which is the single largest party in opposition in Lok Sabha.’

11. In the circumstances, our answer to the query is in the affirmative. We, however, clarify that this answer is only for the limited purpose of the RTI Act [explanation below section 12(3)] and not for any other purpose.

May kindly see.

(R.S. Verma)
Deputy Legal Adviser
15.07.2014

J.S. & LA (Sh. D. Bhardwaj)
The matter under consideration on this file relates to clarity about the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha for the purpose of Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005. Notes in this regard may be seen from p. 3/ante onwards.

2. Section 12 (3) of the RTI Act, 2005 stipulates that the Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of:-

(i) The Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairman 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.

2.1 Further, as per explanation below Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005, for the purposes of removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that where the leader of the 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. It may be mentioned here that after the new Government took over, a reference was made to the Lok Sabha to confirm about the leader of the Opposition. The Lok Sabha vide their U.O.No. 462/2014/I(T)(B) dated 19.6.2014, has informed that as on date there is no leader of opposition in Lok Sabha. Indian National Congress with strength of 44 members is, however, the single largest party in opposition to the Government in Lok Sabha. As per information received from the party, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge is the leader of Indian National Congress in Lok Sabha.

4. Since there was no clarity about the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, a clarification was sought from the Department of Legal Affairs as to whether the leader of the single largest party can be treated as Leader of the single largest group in the Lok Sabha for the purpose of Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

5. We have now received the required clarification from the D/o Legal Affairs, which may be seen in notes at pp. 5-7/ante. In brief, after analysing the matter under the Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1999 and the Salary & Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977, the D/o Legal Affairs have observed that the term ‘single largest Group in opposition’ is not defined either under the RTI Act or Act No. 5/1999 Act No. 33/1977 or in the compilation of ‘Directions by the Speaker Lok Sabha’. However, in view of the provisions of the RTI Act and the information received from Lok Sabha Secretariat, the D/o Legal Affairs have clarified that for the purpose of Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, the leader of the single largest party in the Lok Sabha can be considered as the leader of the single largest group in opposition in Lok Sabha. This
clarification is limited for the purpose of Section 12(3) of RTI Act and not for any other purpose.

6. It is submitted that the main file relating to appointment of the next CIC is already under submission.

7. Submitted, pl.

[Signature]

21.7.14

[Signature]

23.7.2014

[Signature]

24.11.14

[Signature]

26.7.14
The matter under consideration on this file relates to the appointment of the next Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) in the Central Information Commission. The present CIC, Shri Rajiv Mathur, will be completing his tenure on 22.8.2014.

2. Section 12 (3) of the Act provides that the Chief Information Commissioner shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of:-
   (i) The Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairman 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.

2.1 As per explanation below Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005, for the purposes of removal of doubts, where the leader of the 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. For selection of the next CIC, a proposal was initiated vide notes at pp. 16-18/ante for nomination of a Union Cabinet Minister to the Selection Committee under Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 and to fix a convenient date for holding the meeting of the Selection Committee.

3.1 In para 6 of the proposal it was mentioned that after the new Government took over, a reference was made to the Lok Sabha to confirm about the leader of the Opposition. The Lok Sabha vide their U.O.No. 46/2/2014/T(B)/dated 19.6.2014, informed that as on date there was no leader of opposition in Lok Sabha. Indian National Congress with strength of 44 members is, however, the single largest party in opposition to the Government in Lok Sabha. As per information received from the party, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge is the leader of Indian National Congress in Lok Sabha. Since there was no clarity about the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, a clarification had been sought from the Department of Legal Affairs as to whether the leader of the single largest party can be treated as Leader of the single largest group in the Lok Sabha for the purpose of Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005. The requisite clarification was awaited from the D/o Legal Affairs.

4. The Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) vide its ID No. 600/31/39/2013-ES.2(Vol.3) dated 21.7.2014( p.19/N, ante) has intimated that the Hon’ble Prime Minister has nominated Shri Arun Jaitley, Union Cabinet Minister of Finance, Corporate Affairs and Defence as member of the Selection Committee under Section 12(3) of the RTI Act. The PMO has further conveyed that the matter shall be resubmitted for a decision on the date of meeting of the Selection Committee after the issue raised in para 6 of the note ( clarity about Opposition Leader) is decided.

5. In the mean time, we have received the clarification about the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha for the purpose of Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005, which may be seen in notes at pp. 22-24/ante. In brief, after analysing the matter under the Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1999 and the Salary & Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977, the
D/o Legal Affairs have observed that the term 'single largest Group in opposition' is not defined either under the RTI Act or Act No. 5/1999 Act No. 33/1977 or in the compilation of "Directions by the Speaker Lok Sabha". However, in view of the provisions of the RTI Act and the information received from Lok Sabha Secretariat, the D/o Legal Affairs have clarified that for the purpose of Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, the leader of the single largest party in opposition in the Lok Sabha can be considered as the leader of the single largest group in opposition in Lok Sabha. This clarification is limited for the purpose of Section 12(3) of RTI Act and not for any other purpose.

6. Accordingly, the composition of the Selection Committee will be as under:

(i) The Prime Minister, Chairman of the Committee;
(ii) Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, the Leader of Indian National Congress in Lok Sabha- Member, and
(iii) Shri Arun Jaitley, Union Minister of Finance, Corporate Affairs and Defence-Member

7. As for the practice being followed for appointment of CIC it is submitted that the earlier practice had been that CIC is appointed from amongst the existing ICs. During the initial appointment of Chief Information Commissioner, the name of Shri Wajahat Habibullah was recommended by the Selection Committee for the position of Chief Information Commissioner. At the time when selection of the Chief Information Commissioner was to be made in September, 2010, the Commission had passed a resolution to the effect that the Chief Information Commissioner should be selected from amongst the Information Commissioners. Although, no formal decision was taken on the resolution, on that occasion, Shri A.N.Tiwari, who was holding the post of Information Commissioner was selected as Chief Information Commissioner. Thereafter, the same practice was followed in the selection of subsequent Chief Information Commissioners Shri Satyanand Mishra (December, 2010), Smt. Deepak Sandhu (September, 2013), Smt. Sushma Singh (December, 2013) and Shri Rajiv Mathur (May, 2014). Applications were never called for the post of Chief Information Commissioner in the past.

8. The present strength of the Central Information Commission is as under:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Date of Appointment</th>
<th>Date of retirement</th>
<th>Field of Excellence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Shri Rajiv Mathur, Chief IC</td>
<td>23.06.1949</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>22.06.2014</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Shri Vai Sharma, IC</td>
<td>02.12.1960</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>01.12.2016</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Shri Basant Seth, IC</td>
<td>16.02.1952</td>
<td>01.03.2012</td>
<td>15.02.2017</td>
<td>Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Shri Sharat Sabharwal, IC</td>
<td>23.06.1952</td>
<td>22.12.2013</td>
<td>22.09.2017</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. CVs of the above mentioned seven Information Commissioners as downloaded from the website of CIC may please be seen at Flag 'B'.
10. In view of the above position and directions of PMO, the file is resubmitted for a decision about the date of meeting of the Selection Committee for selection of the next CIC.

11. Draft agenda for the meeting of the Selection Committee is also placed at F/A.

[Signature]
24/7

[Signature]
Para 10 & 11 for kind consideration of Hon’ble PM

[Signature]
24/7

[Signature]
25/7/14

[Signature]
Prime Minister
Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions  
(Department of Personnel and Training)  
IR Division

May please peruse notings on pages 27-29 ante.

2. Vide notes referred above, the file was submitted for holding the meeting of the Selection Committee for the post of Chief Information Commissioner (CIC).

3. Prime Minister's Office vide ID No.600/31/C/3/2013-ES.2(Vol.3) dated 17th October 2014 (P-97/C) has desired that for the sake of consistency and uniformity in approach, the procedure for selection of Information Commissioners which includes, among other things, advertising the post and short listing by a Search Committee, may be adopted for appointment to the post of Central Information Commissioner as well. Such short-listed panel may then be placed before the Selection Committee for its consideration.

4. It is, therefore, proposed that a circular may be hoisted on the website of DOPT and the post of Chief Information Commissioner may also be advertised in two leading English newspapers and in one Hindi newspaper, as was done for appointment to the posts of the Information Commissioners. Accordingly, a draft circular for hoisting the same on website of DOPT and draft advertisement in English and Hindi are placed opp for approval of Secretary(P).

(Kulbhushan Mallotra)  
US(RTI) / 21.10.14

(Sanjay Kothari)  
Secretary (P)
The Circulars in English & Hindi are posted on web site. The letter is also sent to OAUP for issue of advertisements in three newspapers (Two in English & one in Hindi). The undersigned also spoke to Sr. Dir, OAUP (Sr. Pankaj Pandey) and requested to issue advertisements in tomorrow's edition. He has informed that Dainik Bhaskar is not printed in UP and has suggested that the Hindi advertisement may be issued in some other newspapers in UP and in some other states where Dainik Bhaskar is not published.

For info:

[Signature]

Dir (CR)

29/11/20

[Signature]

V.S. (BRT)

91/1

Co (RTI)
Subject: Selection of Chief Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission

PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/39/2013-ES.2 (Vol.3) dated 17.10.2014 has directed that for the sake of consistency and uniformity in approach, the procedure for selection of Information Commissioner which includes, among other things, advertising the post and short listing by a Search Committee, may be adopted for appointment to the post of Central Information Commissioner as well. Such shortlisted panel may then be placed before the Selection Committee for its consideration.

2. Accordingly, a circular was posted on the website of DoPT inviting applications to the post of Chief Information Commissioner on 24.10.2014. The post was also advertised in three leading newspapers (two in English and one in Hindi) as was done for appointment to the posts of Information Commissioners. The last date of receipt of applications is 24.11.2014.

3. In this connection, it is mentioned that in the case of appointment to the post of Information Commissioners, PMO vide ID dated 22.9.2014 has approved the following composition for Search Committee.

(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)

4. It is for consideration of Hon'ble Prime Minister as to whether the same Search Committee may continue for short-listing panel for the Chief Information Commissioner as well.

(Kulbhushan Malhotra)
US - RTI
18.11.2014

Director IB

Sandeep Jain
Director (IA)

Add. Secy

MOS (PP)

Prem Kirti Das
The undersigned is directed to convey that the Search Committee (mentioned in paras 3 on pre-page) approved for Information Commissioners, may continue for short-listing panel for the Chief Information Commissioner as well.

Secretary, DoP

V.S. Shekhadi
Director
Prime Minister's Office
South Block, New Delhi

DMO/10/IAO/600/31/C/39/2013 (Con) Order 28/11/17

Immediate

(Sanjay Kothari)
Secretary (P)

JS (AT & A)

(Archana Varma)
Jl Secretary (A.B.I)

V.S. (RTI)

Sandeep Jain
Director (RI)
Subject: Selection of Chief Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission

PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/39/2013-ES.2 (Vol.3) dated 17.10.2014 (page 97/C) has directed that for the sake of consistency and uniformity in approach, the procedure for selection of Information Commissioner which includes, among other things, advertising the post and short listing by a Search Committee, may be adopted for appointment to the post of Central Information Commissioner as well. Such short-listed panel may then be placed before the Selection Committee for its consideration.

2. Accordingly, a circular was posted on the website of DoPT inviting applications to the post of Chief Information Commissioner on 24.10.2014 (Page 102-103/C). The post was also advertised in three leading newspapers (two in English and one in Hindi) as was done for appointment to the posts of Information Commissioners (Page 109-111/C). The last date of receipt of applications is 24.11.2014.

3. In the case of appointment to the post of Information Commissioners, PMO vide ID dated 22.9.2014 (page 134/C) has approved the following composition for Search Committee.

   (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, Director National Center for Agricultural Economics and Policy (NCAP) - Member

4. PMO has confirmed (Page 33/N) that the Search Committee (mentioned in para 3 above) approved for Information Commissioners, may continue for short-listing panel for Chief Information Commissioner as well.

5. The last date of receipt of application was 24th November 2014. A total number of 203 applications for the post of Chief Information Commissioner were received. The list of applicants is placed at Annexure-I.

6. While screening the applications, it has come to the notice that Shri P.K. Malhotra, Law Secretary and Shri Bimal Julka, Secretary (Information & Broadcasting) who are the members of the Search Committee have also applied for the post of Chief Information Commissioner.
7. In view of the above, it is for consideration of Hon'ble Prime Minister as to whether the composition of the Search Committee, as stated at para 3 above, needs to be changed for short-listing panel for Chief Information Commissioner.

(Kulbhushan Malhotra)
US - RTI / 01.12.2014

Para 7 for kind consideration of Hon'ble PM please

Sd/-

1) We may have one search committee for IC as well as CIC because most of the names will be common. While similar situation arose, please indicate the formulation done so that we can take action.
2. In the meantime, please process the papers so that we can fill up these posts at the earliest.

Sd/-

(Archana HN)
A. Secretary (A.P.M.)

2/12/14
Subject: Selection of Chief Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission

PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/39/2013-ES.2 (Vol.3) dated 17.10.2014 (page 97/C) has directed that for the sake of consistency and uniformity in approach, the procedure for selection of Information Commissioner which includes, among other things, advertising the post and short listing by a Search Committee, may be adopted for appointment to the post of Central Information Commissioner as well. Such short-listed panel may then be placed before the Selection Committee for its consideration.

2. Accordingly, a circular was posted on the website of DoPT inviting applications to the post of Chief Information Commissioner on 24.10.2014 (Page 102-103/C). The post was also advertised in three leading newspapers (two in English and one in Hindi) as was done for appointment to the posts of Information Commissioners (Page 109-111/C). The last date of receipt of applications is 24.11.2014.

3. In the case of appointment to the post of Information Commissioners, PMO vide ID dated 22.9.2014 (page 134/C) has approved the following composition for Search Committee.

(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, Director National Center for Agricultural Economics and Policy (NCAP)

4. PMO has confirmed (Page 33/N) that the Search Committee (mentioned in para 3 above) approved for Information Commissioners, may continue for short-listing panel for Chief Information Commissioner as well.

5. The last date of receipt of application was 24th November 2014. A total number of 203 applications for the post of Chief Information Commissioner were received. The list of applicants is placed at Annexure-I.

6. While screening the applications, it has come to the notice that Shri P.K. Malhotra, Law Secretary and Shri Bimal Julka, Secretary (Information & Broadcasting) who are the members of the Search Committee have also applied for the post of Chief Information Commissioner.

7. It is pertinent to mention that during the earlier selection process also, the composition of the Search Committee was changed as few of the members of the Search Committee were applicants. During the process of selection of Information Commissioners in March 2014, Secretary (Personnel) and Secretary (Higher Education), being applicants for the post of ICs, were replaced by Secretary (DARPG) and Secretary (School Education) respectively, as members of the Search Committee.

8. In view of the above, it is for consideration of Hon’ble Prime Minister to change the composition of the Search Committee, as stated at para 3.
above, for short-listing panel for Chief Information Commissioner as well as for Information Commissioners.

Para 8 at page 6 above for kind consideration of Honourable PM.

In view of AA on page 6 for idem.

For orders.

MoD (PP)

9.11.14

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

The issue on this file relates to appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and three Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

Rule Position

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.

3. 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.”

Appointment of Information Commissioners

4. PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 25.02.2014 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.

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 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.

6. 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 - Member
   National Dairy Development Board

   Contd...
7. 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, however, could not take place.

8. 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 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.

9. 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).

10. 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.

11. 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No. of applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Service</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Media</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and Governance</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13. PMO vide vide ID number 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 22.9.2014 had 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

   Director National Center for Agricultural Economics and Policy (NCAP)

14. Agenda Note for selection of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission was approved and the meeting of Search Committee scheduled to be held on 16.10.2014 could not be held. However, with reconstitution of Search Committee, as in para 21, the Agenda Note has accordingly been modified -- DFA-I.

Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commissioner

15. PMO vide ID no. 600/31/C/39/2013-ES.2 (Vol.3) dated 17.10.2014 (page 97/C) has directed that for the sake of consistency and uniformity in approach, the procedure for selection of Information Commissioner which includes, among other things, advertising the post and short listing by a Search Committee, may be adopted for appointment to the post of Central Information Commissioner as well. Such short-listed panel may then be placed before the Selection Committee for its consideration.

16. Accordingly, a circular was posted on the website of DoPT inviting applications to the post of Chief Information Commissioner on 24.10.2014 (Page 102-103/C). The post was also advertised in three leading newspapers (two in English and one in Hindi) as was done for appointment to the posts of Information Commissioners (Page 109-111/C). The last date of receipt of applications is 24.11.2014. A total number of 203 applications for the post of Chief Information Commissioner were received. Applications received after the cut-off date of 24/11/2014 are not being considered.

17. PMO vide ID dated 22.9.2014 stated (Page 33/N) that the Search Committee (mentioned in para 13 above) approved for Information Commissioners, may continue for short-listing panel for Chief Information Commissioner as well.
18. All these 203 applications have been broadly categorised into 7 categories of knowledge and experience, as per Section 12(5) of the RTI Act, reproduced in para 4 above. Few applications which do not fall within these 7 categories, have been mentioned in “others” category. 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-II.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No. of applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Service</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Media</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and Governance</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>203</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. While screening the applications for the post of Chief Information Commissioner it had come to the notice that Shri P.K. Malhotra, Law Secretary and Shri Bimal Julka, Secretary (Information & Broadcasting) who are the members of the Search Committee have also applied for the post of Chief Information Commissioner. Accordingly file was submitted for consideration of Hon’ble Prime Minister as to whether the composition of Search Committee for shortlisting a panel of names for the post of Information Commissioners and Chief Information Commission in Central Information Commission need to be changed.

**Reconstitution of Search Committee**

21. PMO vide their ID no. 600/31/C/18/2014-ES.2 dated 17.12.2014 has approved reconstitutions of Search Committee for shortlisting a panel of names for the post of Information Commissioners and Chief Information Commission in Central Information Commission as under:

(i) Cabinet Secretary - Chairman
(ii) Addl Principal Secretary to PM - Member
(iii) Secretary (Personnel) - Member
(iv) Home Secretary - Member
(v) Secretary D/o Expenditure - Member
(vi) Professor Ramesh Chand - Member

Director National Center for Agricultural Economics and Policy (NCAP)
Approval required

22. Following approvals are required:

(i) The Agenda Note for selection of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission - DFA-I
(ii) The Agenda for selection of Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission - DFA-II.
(iii) Convenience of Cabinet Secretary for holding the meeting of Search Committee for selection of Information Commissioners and Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission is also solicited.

(R.K. Giridhar)

Director IR

Sandeep Jain

Director (IR)

See P

May kindly approve DFA I and DFA II.

Please quote a suitable date for holding the meeting. The meeting is for the post of CIC and 1IC can be held jointly together if approved.

Cabinet Secretary

It has been desired that the meeting may be scheduled on 16.01.2015 at 3:30 pm. Cabinet Secretary has also observed that the agenda notes may be finalized at the level of Secretary (SPI).

Secretary (SPI)

JS (MSA)

US CRD (P)

26/12/2014

(Shyjey Kothari)
Secretariat (P)
Cabinet Secretary has decided to have the meeting

1. of `Some Committee for Selection of Chief Inf.
Commissioner and `Information Commissioner for the
Central Information Commission` held on 16.01.2015
at 3.30 pm. Cabinet Secretary has also decided that
`Agenda notes for the meeting may be finalized at
the level of Sec.(DWR).

2. Accordingly, a meeting will be along with `Agenda notes`
for selection of Chief Inf. Comm. and Sec. in CIC are
placed below for approval.

[Signatures and dates]

- US (RTI)
  31/1/2014
- JS (ATKA)
- DVC
  28/1/12
- JS (ATKA)
- Secy (P)
- JS (ATKA)
- Chet
  31/1/14
- (Banley Kothari)
  Secretary (P)
- Dr. (CR)
  31/1/14

[Unclear signature]
Reference notes on pre-page.

A notice for meeting of Search Committee to be held on 16.1.2015 at 3.30 p.m. in the Cabinet Secretariat to shortlist applicants for the post(s) of Chief Information Commissioner and three Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission was issued on 31.12.2014. Two Agenda notes were also enclosed with the Meeting notice.

2. In both the Agenda notes, in the first para a mistake had inadvertently crept in. The statement that "At present, the Central Information Commission has Chief Information Commissioner and 8(eight) Information Commissioners" is not correct and need to be substituted with the statement "At present, the Central Information Commission has no Chief Information Commissioner and 7(seven) Information Commissioners."

3. Accordingly a Corrigendum may be issued as per DFA placed below.

(R.K. Girdhar)
US-RTI
13.1.2015
The meeting of the Search Committee was held on 16/01/2015 at 3:30 pm in the Cabinet Secretariat. All the members of the committee were present during the meeting. It was decided to have the next meeting of the Search Committee on 06/02/2015 at 3:30 pm in the Cabinet Secretariat.

P.S. - 80% above.

A meeting notice is placed below for approval.

1. However, it is not our order to mention that meeting is or the one of the division and almost all the staff members of BDBM would be on election duty.

D.F.

D.D. There is not likely to be any support staff for that meeting. Submitted for consideration, as to still the meeting notice be issued for 6th Feb, 2015.

JS/AT/43

Meeting notice de l'Aménagement was discussed with JS.

U.S. (Ref.)
The last meeting of the Search Committee to prepare papers for inclusion of chief int.
Commission was held in C.S. Secy's Office at 6.00 PM on 6.02.2015

1. The next date fixed for the meeting as per order was 10.02.2015

Di. (102) 8
2.1.7.2

VS (AS)
2.7.6.4

C.S. Secy has informed that next meeting of the Search Committee would be held on 10.3.2015 at 5 PM.
Meeting will be held as per the plan below.

Di. (102) 8
4/3

VS (AS)
Meeting fixed on 16.03.2015

C.S. Secy (Shri D.K. Saha) has informed me that a meeting of the Search Committee has been fixed and will be held on 12.3.2015 at 4.15 PM. Accordingly, I have set 

Di. (102) 8
10/7

formed by as mentioned above.

Di. C. (Secy)
10/7

fixed to C.S. Secy, P/GO and Mr. K. Naik (C.

VS (AS)
19/3
As informed by Mr. Bello, the third meeting of the Search Committee scheduled to be held on 12.3.2014 stands postponed. New date and time will be announced by Mr. Bello.

[Signature]  
17.3.2014
Cat. Scott has informed that the third meeting of the 'Search Committee' was scheduled to be held on 13-3-2015 (rescheduled for 13-3-2015 and finally postponed, will now be held on 31-3-2015 at 5pm in Committee Room, Cat. Scott.

A meeting notice to this effect is placed below for signature.

[Signature]

[Date: 18-3-2015]

Dr. [Signature]

[Date: 29-3-2015]

Cat. Scott may be requested to attend the next meeting of 'Search Committee' at the

Cardinal in line of judgment of 'will be high in the mind of the group' now by the

Dr. has signed the minutes.
next meeting is around noon on
Friday, 24th April, 2015. 

Signed

[Signature]
21/4/2015

Above meeting attended by [Name]

Signed

[Signature]
23/4/2015

Next meeting is around noon on
27th April, 2015 at 11:30 am. [Name]

Signed

[Signature]
24/4/2015

Next meeting is around noon on
27th April, 2015 at 5 pm.

Signed

[Signature]
27/4/2015

Next meeting is around noon on
27th April, 2015 at 3:30 pm.

Signed

[Signature]
27/4/2015

Meeting held

[Signature]
27/4/2015
In continuation of earlier meetings held on 16.1.2015 and 6.2.2015, the Search Committee met on 27.4.2015 to shortlist the applicants for one post of Chief Information Commissioner and three posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

2. The Search Committee also directed that Vigilance Clearance from the respective cadre controlling authority in respect of shortlisted serving officers and inputs from Intelligence Bureau in respect of all the retired officers and private individuals be obtained before placement for consideration of the Selection Committee under Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

3. Accordingly, draft DO letter to Director, IB is placed below for approval. After issuance of this letter, vigilance clearance in respect of serving officers will be sought through another communication.

(R.K. Girdhar)
US-RTI
1/5/2015
Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission

The Search Committee, under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, met on 27.4.2015 and shortlisted the persons for the post of Chief Information Commissioner and three posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

2. As per the practice, Intelligence Bureau has been requested to provide inputs with regard to character, antecedents, reputation, integrity, political affiliations and connection etc. in respect of retired/private shortlisted persons and Vigilance Clearance from the Cadre Controlling Authority in respect of serving persons is also being obtained separately.

3. In the meanwhile, the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi, in a case filed by Shri R.K. Jain and Others regarding delay in appointment of CIC and IC has expressed concerns over the delay in the appointments and has directed DoPT to report the progress made in this regard by the next date of hearing on 11.5.2015.

4. After receiving report from IB and Vigilance Clearance, file will be put up before the Selection Committee, headed by Hon’ble Prime Minister, in terms of Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

5. In view of the above, if approved, PMO may be requested to arrange meeting of Selection Committee at the earliest, after 15th May as per ID note placed below.

(R.K. Girdhar)
Under Secretary - RTI
2.5.2015

[Handwritten notes and signatures]
On the lines of agenda prepared earlier, can also see CBI agenda. We can see
the agenda on 5/5/2015

JS (ATT A)

Dir (IR)

US (ART)

Placed below in the folders are:

1. CBI agenda.
2. Agenda for Selection Committee based on the
   format of CBI agenda.
3. Agenda for Selection Committee based on the
   lines of agenda prepared earlier.

SANDEEP JAIN
Director (IR) & AV Div.

Agenda XXX for
consideration & approval

As discussed.

Meeting notice —

Organised with JS.
Information exempted under Section 8(1)(ii) of RTI Act, 2005.
Information exempted under Section 8(1)(2) of RTI Act, 2005.
Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and three 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, Central Information Commission has no Chief Information Commissioner and Seven Information Commissioners.

2. PMO has conveyed the approval of the Prime Minister for appointment to three posts of Information Commissioners in the current round of selection. On the issue of filling up of the vacant post of Chief Information Commissioner, Prime Minister directed on 17.10.2014 to follow the same procedure as was being followed in appointment of Information Commissioners.

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

(i) Cabinet Secretary - Chairman
(ii) Additional Principal Secretary to PM - Member
(iii) Secretary (Personnel) - Member
(iv) Home Secretary - Member
(v) Secretary D/o Expenditure - Member
(vi) Professor Ramesh Chand - Member

Director National Center for Agricultural Economics and Policy (NCAP)

4. The Search Committee met on 16.1.2015 and after preliminary scrutiny of the applications for the post of Chief Information Commissioner and three posts of Information Commissioners, decided to further consider the detailed applications of persons. The meetings of Committee on 6.2.2015 and 27.4.2015 were held in continuation of the earlier meeting.

5. After detailed deliberations upon the eligibility and suitability of each candidate in terms of her/his knowledge, eminence and experience in the categories mentioned in Section 12(5) of the RTI Act the Search Committee shortlisted the following candidates for consideration of the Selection Committee prescribed in section 12(3) of the RTI Act for making recommendations to the President for appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and three Information Commissioners:
Shortlisted persons (in alphabetical order of surname) for the post of Chief Information Commissioner:-
(i) Shri Atul Kumar Gupta
(ii) Shri Dinesh Kumar Mehrotra
(iii) Shri Vijai Sharma

Shortlisted persons (in alphabetical order of surname) for three posts of Information Commissioners:-
(i) Shri Ashish Bahuguna
(ii) Shri Sudhir Bhargava
(iii) Shri Amitava Bhattacharya
(iv) Ms. Stuti Narain Kacker
(v) Dr. S.S. Mantha
(vi) Rojan K. Medhekar
(vii) Ms. Vijaya Moorthy
(viii) Dr. Syamal Kumar Sarkar
(ix) Shri R Venkateswarlu

6. The Search Committee recommended that Vigilance Clearance from the respective Cadre Controlling Authority in respect of shortlisted serving officers and inputs from the Intelligence Bureau in respect of retired officers be obtained before placing the recommendations of the Search Committee to the Selection Committee. IB inputs/Vigilance Clearance in respect of shortlisted persons has been obtained.

Information exempted under 10 (i) Section 8 (1) (j) of RTI Act, 2005.
Information exempted under section 8(1)(j) of RTI Act, 2005.

If approved, a draft Agenda Note for the fourth meeting of Search Committee is placed below for approval please.

(Signed)

(R.K. Girdhar)
US-RTI
11/05/2015

(Signed)

SANDEEP JAIN
Director (II) & AV Div.
11/5

Dear (P).

May kindly give a suitable date for the meeting. The Council has fixed the next date of annual meeting as 21st May 2015, so kindly give a date before this.

Cabinet Secretary

11/5/15
Information exempted under Section 8 (1) (j) of RTI Act, 2005.

JS (AT & A)  
Dir(1R)  1415  1915
US (ATI)  issued  
Rep  1417 15
Minutes of the meeting signed  1415
(41715)
Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and three Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission

As per Section 12(3) of the RTI 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.

2. A Search Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary has already held three rounds of meeting on 16.1.2015, 6.2.2015 and 27.4.2015 to shortlist the persons for the post of Chief Information Commissioner and three posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission. The names of shortlisted applicants have been communicated to Hon'ble MoS(PP).

3. PMO may be requested to arrange the meeting of Selection Committee at the earliest. An urgent note is placed below for approval/signature.

(R.K. Girdhar)
Under Secretary - RTI

May kindly give a suitable date and time.

HOS(PP)
17/4/15

Secretary Dept. SC/CRM

The meeting will be held on 23.5.15 from 11 AM onwards (Venue 7 R 2ICH)

Secretary Dept. SC/CRM

P.T.O.
Notes on proposal

Draft Agenda note for Sahuleci Committee | Sept 2015

to Pfo on 13.5.2015 [and handed over to Dr. Kaluia, 11.5.2015]

2. Pfo vide 1.D. No 600/B/IC/33/2013-ES 2 (vol 3) at 11.5.2015 has suggested to revise Annexure A of

in-apply agenda on nature in public life, experience and

knowledge in particular field as per respective

guideline.

3. Agenda is being revised as per above mentioned


[Signature]

[15/9/2015]
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training
IR Division

Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and three Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission

The Selection Committee meeting held on 23.05.2015, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister, it was decided to obtain more inputs on few applicants and a meeting to be held shortly for finalising the aforesaid appointments.

2. In view of the above a suitable date and time may kindly be indicated by the PMO at the earliest.

[Signature]
(Archana Varma)
Joint Secretary (AT&A)
25.05.2015

[Signature]
(Sanjay Kothari)
Secretary (PP)

[Signature]
(P) Yes, I have spoken to MOS(PP) and he has indicated the likely date to be 1st June 2015. May kindly indicate a suitable date and time & venue of the meeting.

[Signature]
(MOS(PP) (discreet))

[Signature]
Pratibha Hyneda
Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and three Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission

As per Section 12(3) of the RTI 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.

2. A Search Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary held four rounds of meeting on 16.1.2015, 6.2.2015, 27.4.2015 and 14.5.2015 and shortlisted the persons for the post of Chief Information Commissioner and three posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.

3. A meeting of Committee, constituted under Section 12(3), met on 23.5.2015 to select Chief Information Commissioner and three Information Commissioners and decided to have one more meeting. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on 1.6.2015.

4. A draft agenda note for the meeting to be held on 1.6.2015 is placed below for approval.

(R.K. Girdhar)
Under Secretary - RTI
Dated: 26.5.2015

AS(PMO)
Immediate

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

*****

South Block,
New Delhi – 110 011

Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission.

Reference is invited to DoPT’s note dated 26.05.2015 at page 1/N of file No. 4/7/2014-IR (Pt.VI) on the subject cited above.

2. The undersigned is directed to convey that other inputs shall form part of the inputs to be placed before the Committee during the meeting and this has to be specifically mentioned in the agenda note.

3. DoPT’s file/folder No. 4/7/2014-IR (Pt.VI) is returned herewith.

(V. Sheshadri)
Director
Tel. No. 2301 3485

Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training
PMO ID no.: 600/31/C/18/2014-EŚ.2 Dated. 27.05.2015

[Signature]

[Stamp] 27/5/2015
Information exempted under
and 18(i)
Section 8(i)(7) of RTI
Act, 2005.
Subject:- Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

The proposal under consideration is for appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

2. At present, there are seven Information Commissioners and no Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. The posts of the Information Commissioner were advertised on 25.02.2014 and 16.07.2014. A total of 553 applications were received against the two advertisements. The post of Chief Information Commissioner was advertised on 24.10.2014. A total of 203 applications had been received by the last date.

3. It is pertinent to mention that Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 03.09.2013 on a Review Petition filed by Union of India against Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 13.09.2012 in Namit Sharma case gave certain directions for making appointments to the post of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners. For the sake of emphasis, few of the directions are mentioned below:

(i) We further direct that persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in all the fields mentioned in Sections 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 Committees under Sections 12(3) and 15(3) of the Act for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner or Information Commissioners.

(ii) We further direct that the Committees under Sections 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.

4. A Writ Petition was filed before High Court of Delhi by Shri R. K. Jain & Ors. regarding delay in appointment of CIC/ICs. Hon’ble Court in its interim order dated 09.04.2015, while expressing concern over delay had directed to file the progress report by the next date of hearing on 11.05.2015. An affidavit was filed in Hon’ble High Court on 08.05.2015 informing that the process to appoint Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners is at an advanced stage and that the Search Committee has shortlisted the applicants. During the next date of hearing on 21.05.2015, the Hon’ble Court reserved its order and till now nothing has come on the website of the Hon’ble Court.

5. A Search Committee consisting of the following officials was constituted for the present round of selection process:-

(i) Cabinet Secretary - Chairman
(ii) Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister - Member
(iii) Secretary (Personnel) - Member
(iv) Home Secretary - Member
(v) Secretary D/o Expenditure - Member
(vi) Professor Ramesh Chand
    Director, National Center for Agricultural Economics and Policy (NCAP) as an external expert

6. The Search Committee held four meetings on 16.01.2015, 06.02.2015, 27.04.2015 and 14.05.2015 respectively and shortlisted applicants for the post of Chief Information Commissioner and for the posts of Information Commissioners.

7. The Committee constituted under section 12(3) of the RTI Act, 2005, met on 23.5.2015. The agenda note for the meeting is at Flag ‘A’ (pg 216-464/c). The Committee considered all the applications received for the post of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission including the details of persons shortlisted by the Search Committee. The Committee decided to have further details of few candidates. Minutes of the meeting are at Flag ‘C’ (pg 465-466/c).
8. The second meeting of the Committee was held on 01.06.2015 in which the details required by the Committee were placed before it, which included ACR gradings, Vigilance inputs from AVD-I (DoPT) and other inputs from various other agencies. The agenda note for the meeting is at Flag 'B' (pg 558-563/c).

9. After taking into account all the relevant aspects, the Committee recommended the names for the post of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners as recorded in the minutes of the meeting (Flag 'D' (pg 567-571/c)).

10. A submission note is placed below for approval by MoS (PP) to seek approval of Hon'ble President of India on the recommendation made by the Committee.

(Sandeep Jain)
Director – IR
03.06.2015
F. No. 4/7/2014-IR
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
(Department of Personnel and Training)

Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission

In exercise of the powers given by sub section (1) of section 12 of Right to Information Act, 2005, the Central Government has constituted the Central Information Commission. As per sub section (2) of section 12 of the Act, the 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, there are seven Information Commissioners and no Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. It has now been decided to appoint the Chief Information Commissioner and one Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

2. As per Section 12 (5) of the Act, 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.

3. As per Section 13(1) of the Act, the Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall not be eligible for reappointment:

Provided that no Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office as such after he has attained the age of sixty-five years.

4. As per Section 13(2) of Act, every Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for reappointment as such Information Commissioner.

5. According to sub-section (3) of Section 12 of the Act, the Chief Information Commissioner and the 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.

6. Accordingly the Committee was constituted with the Prime Minister, as Chairperson, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the single largest Party in Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs and Information & Broadcasting.

7. Meetings of the Committee were held at 11.00 am on 23.05.2015 and at 5.00 pm on 01.06.2015. Agenda notes of the meetings are at Flag 'A' (pg 1-250/c) and 'B' (pg 251-256/c) respectively. During the meeting on 23.05.2015, after taking into account all the relevant factors, the Committee decided to obtain further details on certain candidates. The Committee met again on 01.06.2015 and perused the agenda including the details of the above mentioned officers along with their vigilance profile. The Committee decided to fill only one post of Information Commissioner in addition to the Chief Information Commissioner. After taking into account all the relevant aspects, the Committee recommended the following for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission:

   a) For the post of Chief Information Commissioner:

          Shri Vijai Sharma, IAS (Retd) (UP : 1974)

   b) For the post of Information Commissioner:

          Shri Sudhir Bhargava, IAS (Retd) (RJ : 1979)

8. Minutes of the meeting dated 23.05.2015 and 01.06.2015 may please be seen at Flag 'C' (pg 257-258/c) and 'D' (pg 259-263/c) respectively.

9. The CVs of the persons recommended for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner are at Flag 'E' (pg 264-266/c) and 'F' (pg 267-273/c) respectively.

10. The Prime Minister may like to recommend to the Hon'ble President the appointment of:

    (I) Shri Vijai Sharma, IAS (Retd) (UP : 1974) (DoB : 02/12/1950) for the post of Chief Information Commissioner. His term of office shall not be
more than five years in aggregate as the Information Commissioner and the Chief Information Commissioner or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier; and

(ii) Shri Sudhir Bhargava, IAS (Retd) (RJ : 1979) (DoB : 12/01/1955) for the post of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. He shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

Prime Minister

5/6/2015

President

5/6/2015

Minister of State (PP)(Dr Jitender Singh)

President's Secrt. ID No 982115/2015/QR 6) dt. 5-6-2015.
Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission

Reference notes on pre-page.

2. Hon'ble President has approved the appointment of the following persons in the Central Information Commission, vide their ID Note No. 282115/2015/CA(I) dated 5.6.2015:

   (i) Shri Vijai Sharma, IAS (Retd.) (UP:1974) as Chief Information Commissioner.

   (ii) Shri Sudhir Bhargava, IAS (Retd.) (RJ:1979) as Information Commissioner.

3. Draft offer letters to the above persons are placed below for approval.

   Submitted please.

   (G.S. Arora)
   DS-IR
   8.6.2015
Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission

Reference notes on pre-page.

2. Hon'ble President has approved the appointment of Shri Vijai Sharma as Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

3. Offer letter was issued to Shri Vijai Sharma on 8.6.2015. Shri Vijai Sharma has accepted the offer for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner and has mentioned that he agreed with para 2 of the offer letter, which provided that he would be required to vacate the office of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

4. Draft D.O. letter to Additional Secretary, President Secretariat for seeking convenience of Hon'ble President to administer oath to the Chief Information Commissioner designate, in terms of Section 13(3) of the RTI Act is placed below for approval.

(G. S. Arora)
DS-IR
8.6.2015
Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission

Reference notes on pre-page.

2. Hon'ble President has approved the appointment of Shri Sudhir Bhargava as Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

3. Offer letter was issued to Shri Sudhir Bhargava on 8.6.2015. Shri Sudhir Bhargava has accepted the offer for appointment as Information Commissioner and has confirmed that he did not hold any office of profit and that he was not connected with any political party, business or profession.

4. Draft D.O. letter to Additional Secretary, President Secretariat for seeking convenience of Hon'ble President to administer oath to the Information Commissioner designate or to appoint some other person to administer oath to the Information Commissioner designate, in terms of Section 13(3) of the RTI Act, is placed below for approval.

5. Draft press note is also placed below for approval.

(G. S. Arora)
DS-IR
8.6.2015
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training
IR Division

Subject: Appointment of Central Vigilance Commissioner and Chief Information Commissioner

Hon'ble President has recommended appointment of Sh. K.V. Chowdhary as the Central Vigilance Commissioner and Sh. Vijai Sharma as the Chief Information Commissioner. They will be administered oath of office by the Hon'ble President.

2. Ministry of Home Affairs may be requested to indicate who is positioned senior in the Warrant of Precedence and shall be administered the oath first, as per draft ID note placed below.

(R.K. Girdhar)
Under Secretary (RTI)
09.06.2015

Director (IR) - away
JS(SV-I)

May like to see for ref.

DS(IR).

9/6/2015
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training
IR Division

Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission

Hon'ble President has approved appointment of Sh. Vijai Sharma as the Chief Information Commissioner and Shri Sudhir Bhargava as Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. Both are likely to be administered oath of office on 10th June, 2015. Two draft notifications are placed below for vetting by Legislative Department. A copy of notification for appointment of Chief Information Commissioner in the CIC during 2014 is also placed below, for reference.

(R.K. Girdhar)
Under Secretary (RTI)
09.06.2015

LEGISLATION, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
DOPT U.O. NO. 4/17/2014-IR (PR) OR 9.6.2015,
DYNO. 1277/15

The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Personnel and Training (IR Division) has forwarded two draft notifications (DFAI and DFAII) to this Department for vetting.

2. DFAI in connection to appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.
Commissioners and DF&ID in Writ-exempt to constitute of Centre
Supreme Commissioner under Section 12(3) of the Delhi NCT Act,
2005.

3. The draft notification based on the file by the Home Ministry
has been circulated in the Department. Since the noticed matter
will come into force with effect from 10th June 2015, the admissibility
is invited to take necessary steps for publication of the draft
notification on or before the aforesaid date.

4. Subject to above, the draft as modified in respect of
finally in order. Hence, the admissibility may be referred to
with the satisfactory that the draft as modified in the draft
meets with their satisfaction and recommendations.

Deed of Personnel and Finance.

(R. SREENIVAS)
Deputy Legislative Counsel
Ministry of Law & Justice
(Legislative Dept.) Civil Secretariat, Delhi, New Delhi
23rd June 2015

U. O. No. 12277/15
DOPi

OL Wing may please arrange translation of the draft notification issued by Legislative Department on priority basis.

OL Wing, Legislative Department

DOPi u.o no. 4/7/2014-1R(PO)
9/1/2015
Hon'ble President has directed the Chief Minister of the State to the home confidential communique Sh. Vijai Sharma today May 10th June, 2015 to observe Nari, Videsh, Prime Minister

2. A draft notification, relating to Leg. Dept of 116 Law, pending prior appointment of new Chief Minister is at 3.54.

3. The notification is placed before the Agnanda

[Signature]

[Date: 10/06/2015]

[The text is written in Hindi and English. The English text is a copy of the Hindi text below it.]
Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

Pursuant to meeting of the Committee, constituted under Section 12(3) held on 01.06.2015, deciding on the names for the post of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission, a submission note in the main file was moved by Director (IR) on 03.06.2015. PMO on 05.06.2015 informed of PM having signed the submission note to the President. Along with main file, a part file was also sent wherein a note from MoST (PF) dated 04.06.2015 was moved requesting the PM to recommend to Hon’ble President the appointment of Sh. Vijai Sharma as Chief Information Commissioner and Sh. Sudhir Bhargava as Information Commissioner. Hon’ble Prime Minister signed the proposal on 05.06.2015 and Hon’ble President approved the proposal on the same date.

2. Offer of Appointment to Sh. Vijai Sharma and Sh. Sudhir Bhargava were issued on 8th June, 2015 and the acceptance of offer from both the officers was received on same date.

3. President Secretariat informed on 9th June, 2015 that Hon’ble President will be pleased to administer the oath of office to the Chief Information Commissioner designate at 12.30 hrs on 10th June, 2015 in the Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

4. Oath was administered to Sh. Vijai Sharma as Chief Information Commissioner in the CIC and a notification to this effect has been sent to Govt. Press, Mayapuri on 10th June, 2015 afternoon.

5. As regards oath to Information Commissioner designate Sh. Sudhir Bhargava, the President Secretariat has informed that the newly appointed Information Commissioner may make and subscribe oath or affirmation before the Chief Information Commissioner. A copy of letter of the President Secretariat has already been sent on 9th June, 2015 to Secretary, CIC for taking necessary action. Nothing has been heard from the CIC till 18.10 hrs today.

6. May kindly see for information.

Director (IR)

(Signed)

Under Secretary (RTI)

10.06.2015

(Signed)

Sanjay Kohari
Secretary (P)
Appointment of Information Commissioner in
the Central Information Commission.

Chief Information Commissioner has decided the
order of office to the new Information Commissioner
Sri. N. Suresh, today the 11th June, 2015.

2. A notification is required to be issued to this
regard and is placed below for approval/signature.

Dd:

11/06/2015

[Signature]

TSCW-I