

Re: Reconstitution of Joint Consultative Mechanism (JCM) in ISRO and the Department of Science

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of State, Department of Science and Technology, towards the urgent need to reconstitute the Joint Consultative Mechanism (JCM) within ISRO and the Department of Science. JCM was introduced by the Government as a negotiation mechanism for employees in Government offices in 1963. In the case of ISRO and DoS, a re-verification process is supposed to take place every five years, wherein employees can vote and elect two recognised service associations to the governing and administration councils of these two premier bodies. The elected service associations would then be qualified and authorised to participate in the JCM for a period of five years. The last verification process took place in 2014, and there has been no attempt to reconstitute such a process in the past 9 years. As a result, there currently exists no suitable negotiation forum to raise a number of legitimate and pending issues relating to employees' welfare, working conditions, and benefits. This has naturally had an adverse effect on the morale of employees, who feel disenfranchised by the lack of a consultative platform to air their grievances. I, therefore, urge the hon. Minister to reconstitute the process of JCM within ISRO and the Department of Science.