

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3474
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
INSTRUCTIONS TO CIC AND SIC
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued instructions to the Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions regarding the decisions on constituting benches of individual commissioners;
- (b) if so, whether such directive was based on a interpretation of Section 20
- (b) of the RTI Act;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the outcome thereof?

Answer

Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (d): The Government has advised the Central Information Commission and the State Governments that decisions on complaints and appeals should be taken by the respective Commissions as defined in section 2(b) or section 2(k), as the case may be, of the RTI Act, 2005 and not by benches of the Commission inasmuch as the Act does not contain any provision for constitution of benches.