

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3298  
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012  
DISCRETIONARY QUOTA OF MINISTERS  
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

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

- (a) whether doing away with the discretionary powers of the Union Ministers including Chief Ministers and other State Ministers to allot land from the discretionary quota is likely to help in controlling corruption in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to do away with discretionary quota?

**Answer**

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.  
(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a)to(c): Corruption thrives where transparency is lacking, procedures are complicated, discretion of a high order is permitted and where there is a demand supply gap. Government is tackling these situations by encouraging greater transparency, introducing simplified procedures, reducing scope for discretion.

A Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted by the Government on 6th January, 2011 to consider measures that can be taken by the Government to tackle corruption. One of the terms of reference of the GoM was 'relinquishing discretionary powers enjoyed by Ministers at the Centre'. The GoM reviewed information received from all Ministries/Departments as regards the discretionary powers enjoyed by the respective Ministries. None of the central Ministries reported any discretionary powers enjoyed by their Ministers as far as allotment of land is concerned.

On the basis of the review, the GoM had recommended that all Ministries/Departments may carry out an exercise for putting in place regulating parameters for exercise of discretionary powers and putting them in public domain so as to minimize arbitrariness in exercise of such powers.

The above recommendation of the GoM has been accepted by the Government and accordingly all central Ministries/Departments have been advised to put in place regulating parameters for exercise of discretionary powers, wherever such guidelines do not exist, and place them in public domain.