

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5528

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013

RAISING NEW BATTALIONS

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to raise 29 battalions comprising around 30,000 personnel;
- (b) if so, the details and the status thereof along with the time by which all the 29 battalions are likely to be raised;
- (c) whether several States have requested the Union Government to frame a new recruitment policy to ensure transparency and objectivity in the selection process for such personnel;
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Union Government to provide infrastructure for the new battalions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R P N SINGH)

(a) & (b) : In 2009, the Government has sanctioned 29 additional Battalions to BSF, out of which 18 battalions have been raised and 11 battalions are scheduled for raising during 2013-14 to 2015-16.

(c) & (d) : Recently, no such requests from the State Governments has been received. The recruitment of Constable in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) & Assam Rifles (ARs) has already been revised in order to make the recruitment process fair, efficient, effective and transparent to reduce the scope of subjectivity by maximizing the use of technology in the recruitment process. The salient feature of the revised recruitment scheme for Constables in CAPFs & AR are as under :-

(i) The Recruitment is being made centrally by conducting a single combined examination for all CAPFs & AR through Staff Selection Commission (SSC). Necessary assistance is being provided to candidates through telephone/website/mobile phone/SMS.

(ii) The biometric methods are being used at all stages of the recruitment (in the absence of computer based biometric equipments, thumb impression, digital photograph and any specific identifying marks in the body is used).

(iii) The recruitment process is preferably being video-graphed.

(iv) The application Forms are designed centrally in OMR (Optical Magnetic Recognition) sheet so that it can be scrutinized promptly through computers. The written test consist of only OMR based objective type multiple choice question.

(v) The PET (Physical Efficiency Test) is now only qualifying in nature and does not carry any marks. Also, interviews have been discontinued.

(e): Creation of infrastructure for the new battalions is an ongoing process. Authorization for infrastructure for these 29 Bns has already been approved at the time of sanction of these new battalions. The construction is carried out based on availability of land and budgetary allocation.