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COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION (2015-2016)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

TENTH REPORT

(PRESENTED TO LOK SABHA ON 22.12.2015)

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2015 / Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka)

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<u>COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION</u> (2015-2016)

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<u>Chairperson</u>

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- 3. Shri C. R. Chaudhary
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SECRETARIAT

- 1. Shri Ravindra Garimella Joint Secretary
- 2. Shri Ajay Kumar Garg Director
- 3. Shri Nabin Kumar Jha Additional Director
- 4. Smt. Jagriti Tewatia Deputy Secretary
 - (iii)

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Committee on Subordinate Legislation having been authorised by the Committee to submit the report on their behalf, present this Tenth Report.

2. The matters dealt with in this Report were considered by the Committee on Subordinate Legislation at their sitting held on 13.10.2015.

3. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 18.12.2015.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in Appendix-I of the Report.

5. Extracts from the Minutes of the Second sitting of the Committee (2015-16) held on 13.10.2015 and Fourth Sitting of the Committee (2015-16) held on 18.12.2015 relevant to this Report are included in Appendix-II of the Report.

New Delhi; <u>18 December, 2015</u> 27 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka) DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI Chairperson, Committee on Subordinate Legislation

REPORT

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The Ministry of Water Resources, the Central Water Engineering (Group A) Service Rules, 2013 (GSR 252 of 2013).

The Ministry of Water Resources, the Central Water Engineering (Group A) Service Rules, 2013 (GSR 252 of 2013) were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3 (i), dated 2.11.2013. On scrutiny of the rules, following infirmities were observed:-.

- (i) In Rule 8(3), it has been prescribed that "if during, the period of probation, or any extension thereof, as the case may be, the Controlling Authority is of the opinion that an officer is not fit for confirmation in the service, the Controlling Authority may discharge the officer or revert him to the post held by him prior to his appointment in the Service, as the case may be". The aspect of discharge of an officer during the period of probation or any extension thereof based on the opinion of the Controlling Authority without giving the incumbent a reasonable opportunity to defend is against the law of natural justice. The Ministry were requested to clarify as to whether the relevant rule needs re-phrasing.
- (ii) In Schedule III under col. 3, at SI. No. 5(a), the method of recruitment of 'Duty Posts in Non-functional' second grade has not been defined clearly. The method of recruitment mentioned by the Ministry in the Order states – 'By appointment in the order of seniority based on suitability taking into account the overall performance experience and other related matters' which is ambiguous and could be interpreted subjectively. In this regard, the Ministry were requested to furnish their comments.

1.2. The above infirmities were referred to the Ministry of Water Resources who were concerned with the subject for obtaining their clarification. In response Ministry of Water Resources <u>vide</u> their OM dated 28 October, 2014 have furnished the following reply to the above points:

"After joining in the grade of Assistant Director, discharge from service is governed by Government of India's instructions/guidelines issued from time to time including DOPT's OM regarding confirmation/extension of probation period which inter-alia include safeguards to ensure adherence with the principle of natural justice."

"The method of recruitment in NFSG (Non Functional Second Grade) has been prescribed keeping in view the guidelines issued by DOPT vide OM No. 28038/1/88-Estt. (D) dated 9th October, 1989, as per which:-

- (i) Order of Seniority based on suitability means the officers who are seniors [before junior in STS (Senior Time Scale) who are meeting eligibility] in STS will be considered first for grant of NFSG subject to the condition that number of posts in NFSG shall be restricted to 30% of the senior duty posts.
- (ii) Performance means the overall performance of the officer was good and that he has at least two "very good" gradings in the last five ACRs. Such an office would be considered suitable for NFSG.
- (iii) Experience: The officers holding posts of Executive Engineer or equivalent in the senior Times scale of the Service with a minimum of five years of regular service in the PB-3 Rs. 15600-39100 with grade pay of Rs. 6600/-."

1.3. In Rule 8 (3) of the Ministry of Water Resources, the Central Water Engineering (Group A) Service Rules, 2013, the aspect of discharge of an officer during the period of probation or any extension thereof based on the opinion of the Controlling Authority without giving the incumbent a reasonable opportunity to defend was against the principle of natural justice. The Ministry in this regard have stated that discharge from service is governed by Government of India's instructions/guidelines issued from time to time including DOPT's OM regarding confirmation/extension of probation period.

The method of recruitment for the duty posts in Non-functional second grade given in the schedule III under column 3, at sl no. 5 (a) is given as by appointment in the order of seniority based on suitability taking into account the overall performance experience and other related matters. However, the above entry was liable to be interpreted subjectively. The Ministry in their comments have stated that the method of recruitment in Non Functional Second Grade has been prescribed in accordance with the instructions laid down by the DoPT.

1.4. The Committee note that as per the provisions contained in sub-rule 3 of Rule 8 of the Ministry of Water Resources, the Central Water Engineering (Group A) Service Rules, 2013, a probationer can be discharged or reverted back if the Controlling Authority is of the opinion that such officer is not fit for confirmation in the service. The Committee observe that rule does not contain any provision for protecting the interests of the probationer, in case the

probationer is discharged or reverted back to the post held by him earlier. The Ministry of Water Resources who were asked to clarify the issue had stated that discharge from service is governed by Government of India's instructions/guidelines issued from time to time including DOPT's OM regarding confirmation/extension of probation period which <u>inter-alia</u> include safeguards to ensure adherence with the principles of natural justice.

1.5. The Committee are of the view that before discharging from service or reverting back to the post held earlier by the incumbent, the probationer should be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard. The Committee would like to point out that while framing rules the Ministry should mention in clear and unambiguous terms in the rules that, before taking a final decision the probationer would be given an opportunity of being heard as per Government of India's instructions/guidelines issued from time to time. This would make the rules self contained and would leave no scope of being interpreted differently by different persons more so to the disadvantage of the affected persons. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry to amend rule 8 (3) of the aforesaid rules to incorporate provision for providing the probationer an opportunity of being heard before a final decision is taken by the Controlling Authority.

1.6. The Committee further note that the method of recruitment prescribed for the duty posts in Non Functional Second Grade at SI. No. 5 (a) contained in schedule III carry the risk of being subjectively interpreted. The Committee observe that the very probability of subjective interpretation is indicative of prevalent loopholes in the rules. The Committee note from the reply of the Ministry that the method of recruitment for the above posts was incorporated based on the DoPT OM No. 28038/1/88-Estt. (D) dated 9th October, 1989. The Committee desire that the clarification so furnished by the Ministry might be suitably incorporated in the rules to avoid any subjective interpretation of the rules.

(i) The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Labour Bureau, Data Entry Operator Grade 'D', Group B Post, Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 246 of 2013).
 (ii) The Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Courts Group B Posts Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 269 of 2013).

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Labour Bureau, Data Entry Operator Grade 'D', Group B Post, Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 246 of 2013) and the Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Courts Group B Posts Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 269 of 2013) were published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3 (i) dated 26.10.2013 and 30.11.2013 respectively. The infirmities observed in above Rules, comments furnished by the Ministry thereon and the observation/recommendation proposed to be made by the Committee have been elaborated in succeeding paras.

A. The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Labour Bureau, Data Entry Operator Grade 'D', Group B Post, Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 246 of 2013)

2.2. On scrutiny of the above rules it was observed that as per the entry contained in Column 11 of the Schedule specifying the eligibility for promotion, only the name of the feeder post along with the length of service has been mentioned. However, the details regarding the Pay Band and Grade Pay or Pay Scale attached with the feeder post i.e. Data Entry Operator Grade 'B' were found to be absent thereby rendering the entry incomplete. Accordingly, the matter was referred to the Ministry of Labour and Employment who are concerned with the rules, for their comments on the aforementioned discrepancy.

2.3. The Ministry vide their reply dated 20th August, 2014 have agreed to amend the Column 11 of the Schedule of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Labour Bureau, Data Entry Operator Grade 'D', Group B Post, Recruitment Rules, 2013 by replacing the existing words 'Data Entry Operator Grade B who has completed six years of regular service in the grade' with

the words 'Data Entry Operator Grade B in Pay Band – 1, Rs. 5200-20200 with Grade Pay of Rs. 2800 who has completed six years of regular service in the grade.'

2.4. The Committee note that as per the entry contained in column 11 of the Schedule appended to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Labour Bureau, Data Entry Operator Grade 'D', Group B Post, Recruitment Rules, 2013, specifying the eligibility for promotion, only the name of the feeder post along with the length of service has been mentioned. However, the details regarding the Pay Band and Grade Pay or Pay Scale attached with the feeder post i.e. Data Entry Operator Grade 'B' have been found to be absent. The Committee are constrained to observe that in the absence of the details of the pay band of pay scale attached with the feeder cadre which form a crucial part of a post, the existing information which has been provided about the feeder cadre is incomplete and leaves the scope for ambiguity. The Committee, however, like to express their satisfaction over the fact that the Ministry are in agreement with the views of the Committee and have proposed to amend the rules to the desired effect by incorporating the grade pay and pay band attached with the feeder grade i.e. Data Entry Operator Grade 'B'. The Committee desire that the Ministry to bring out the necessary amendment expeditiously and take necessary steps for avoidance of such errors in the future.

B. The Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Courts Group B Posts Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 269 of 2013).

2.5. On scrutiny of these rules it was observed that in Column 10 of the Schedule, the method of recruitment has been prescribed as "Direct Recruitment". However, it has also been prescribed that "vacancies caused by the incumbent being away on deputation or long illness or study leave or other circumstances for duration of one year or more may be filled up on deputation basis from officers of the Central government". In addition to this, in Column (10) (B), it has also been prescribed that qualifications as prescribed for Direct Recruitment under Column (7) will also apply. In other words, in case, the post is filled up on deputation basis, all

the qualifications given at Column (7) will also apply i.e. in addition to other qualifications (skill test norm will also be applicable). Therefore, it was not clear as to whether these provisions were applicable for filling up the post on deputation basis too. The Ministry were requested to furnish their comments on the same.

2.6. The Ministry vide their reply dated 15 December, 2014 have submitted as under :-

"the said provision was incorporated on the recommendation of the UPSC. Therefore, the matter was taken up with the UPSC and the UPSC has advised that the existing provisions contained in column 10 of the Schedule of RR may be considered for revision as under:

"By Direct Recruitment

Note:- Vacancies caused by the incumbent being away on deputation or long illness or study leave or other circumstances for duration of one year or more may be filled on deputation basis from the officers holding the post of Stenographer under the Central Government – (i) Holding analogous post on regular basis, or, (ii) with 10 years regular service in the Stenographer Grade in Pay Band – I Rs. 5200 – 20200 with the Grade Pay of Rs. 2400/-

Accordingly, the Ministry has decided, with the approval of the competent authority, to accept the advice of UPSC and go for necessary amendment of the RRs for the post of Personal Assistant.

2.7. The Committee note that the entry under Column 10 of Schedule appended to the Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Courts Group 'B' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 269 of 2013), pertaining to method of recruitment prescribes that the direct recruitment is the mode of recruitment for the post of Personal Assistant. It has also been provided that the vacancies arising out of long duration leave will be filled in by deputation. However, the eligibility criteria prescribed for deputation also includes qualification as prescribed for direct recruits, including skill test norms, which is contrary to the practice normally followed in this regard. The Committee, however, note with satisfaction that after the clarification was sought from the Ministry in this regard, the Ministry after consultation with UPSC, have proposed to suitably amend the rules by

prescribing separate eligibility conditions for filling up the post on deputation basis as distinct from that required for direct recruits in terms of qualification and experience for the post of Personal Assistant. The Committee desire that the Ministry bring out necessary amendment to the rules at the earliest and to be more vigilant in future while drafting the recruitment rules.

2.8. The Committee also find it pertinent to emphasize here that utmost care need to be taken while drafting recruitment rules, which needless to say have far reaching ramifications <u>vis-a-vis</u> persons concerned.

- (i) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Multi Tasking Staff, Recruitment Rules, 2012 (GSR 64 of 2014).
- (ii) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation Multi Tasking Staff Recruitment Rules, 2012 (GSR 81 of 2014).

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The above mentioned Recruitment Rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3(i) dated 5 April, 2014 and 26 April 2014 respectively. During scrutiny of the Rules under reference, following infirmities were observed:-

<u>GSR 64</u>

- (i) The Notification dated 5 December, 2012 has been published in the Gazette of India dated 5 April, 2014 i.e. after a delay of almost 1 year 4 months.
- (ii) The year in Short Title does not tally with the year of publication of the said rules in the Gazette of India.

<u>GSR 81</u>

The notification dated 5 December, 2012, has been published in the Gazette of India dated 26 April, 2014 i.e. after a delay of almost 1 year 4 months.

3.2. The above infirmities were referred to the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation who were concerned with the subject <u>vide</u> this Secretariat OM dated 31 October, 2014 for obtaining their clarification. In response the Ministry <u>vide</u> their OM dated 25 November, 2014 stated as follows:-

"the vetted versions of Recruitment Rules in Hindi and English were sent for publication on 05.12.2012 to Government of India Press. The notification dated 05.12.2012 was published vide GSR 304 dated 15.12.2012. Thus there has not been a delay in publication of the rules in the Gazette of India. As no intimation of publication of rules was received from the GOI press, the press was requested to furnish printed copies of the notification vide Ministry's letter dated 25 March, 2014. Further, some discrepancy was noticed in the English and Hindi version regarding year of framing posts under col. 2 of the schedule a copy of corrected versions was again furnished to GOI press as per their telephonic advice. However, instead of issuing an amendment, fresh notifications were published vide GSR 64 of 2014 and 81 of 2014 by GOI press on their own without any intimation to this Ministry. Thus it was not in the knowledge of this Ministry that GSR 64 and GSR 81 had been published."

3.3. The Ministry vide its subsequent OM dated 6 July, .2015 further submitted as follows:-

"(*i*) G.S.R. 64 dated 5th December, 2012 published in the Gazette of India ,Part II, Section 3, Sub Section(*i*) dated 5th April 2014 and G.S.R. 81 dated 5th December published in the Gazette of India, Part II Section 3, Sub Section(*i*) dated 26th April 2014 have been rescinded vide G.S.R. 365(E) dated 30.04.2015.

(ii) Notification amending the notification issued vide number G.S.R 304 dated 12.12.2012 has been notified vide G.S.R 366 (E) dated 30.04.2015." Hindi and English version of the notifications have also been received."

3.4. The Committee note that in the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Multi Tasking Staff, Recruitment Rules, 2012 (GSR 64 & 81 of 2014), there was an inordinate delay of 1 year and 4 months in publication in the official Gazettes. Also, in GSR 81, the year in the Short Title did not tally with the year of publication of the said Rules in the Gazette of India. The Committee are guite concerned to note that the Ministry had been negligent in obtaining the information regarding the publication of the Recruitment Rules which were sent by them for publication on 5.12.2012 to Govt. of India Press which were subsequently found to be published vide GSR No. 304 dated 15.12.2012. Since the Ministry did not track the publication of rules by GOI Press, the Ministry vide its letter dated 25 March, 2014 requested the Government of India Press to furnish printed copies of the Notification. The Committee find it disconcerting to note that it took as long as 1 year and 3 months time for the Ministry to take note of non receipt of printed copies of the Notification. Further, to the utter chagrin of the Committee, the Ministry in its clarification have submitted that, there has not been any delay in publication of the rules in the Gazette of India. This certainly reflects the lackadaisical

approach of the Ministry in dealing with serious issues like publication of the Recruitment Rules. The Committee, therefore, find the approach of the Ministry in such important matters totally unacceptable.

3.5. The Committee also note that after the receipt of printed copies of the Notification from the Press, the Ministry noticed discrepancy in the Notification regarding year of framing posts under Col. 2 of the schedule and, therefore, forwarded a corrected version to GOI Press as advised by the Press. The Committee find it simply incomprehensible to note that instead of issuing an amendment notification as was desired by the Ministry, the GOI Press on their own without any intimation to the Ministry published fresh Notifications vide GSR Nos. 64 of 2014 and 81 of 2014. The Committee take a very serious note of the utterly casual and callous approach of the Ministry in publication of Recruitment Rules in the Gazette Notification as the Ministry after sending the corrected version to the GOI Press, again didn't keep track of printing of the amendment Notification till the Committee took up the matter of delay in printing of GSRs 64 and 81 of 2014. The Committee, therefore, wish to emphatically stress and recommend that that the responsibility of the Ministry should not cease with the sending of a Notification to the Press. The Ministry should be vigilant enough to keep track of the Notification after it is sent to the Press for printing and after the rules / regulations etc. have been published in the Gazette. Further, the Ministry should also take immediate steps to examine whether the same have been correctly printed and if necessary, to issue corrigenda thereto. The Committee expect that at least from now on the Ministry would now devise an efficient mechanism and exercise utmost care in timely publication of Gazettes in coordination with GOI Press.

3.6. As a corrective measure, but only after the matter was seized by the Committee, the Ministry vide GSR 365-E dated 30.4.2015 rescinded the GSRs 64 and 81 dated 5.12.2012 published in Gazette of India dated 5.4.2014 and 26.4.2014 respectively by GOI

Press. Further, notification amending the notification issued vide GSR 304 dated 12.12.2012 has been notified vide GSR 366-E dated 30.4.2015. The Committee recommend that notification no. 365-E and 366-E dated 30.4.2015 should be laid in the House and the Committee may also be apprised of the same.

Infirmities in the short-title of Rules, Regulations, Bye-Laws etc.

In order to make it convenient for the public to locate various rules and regulations, the Committee on Subordinate Legislation have over the years repeatedly stressed the need for having short title. The recommendations made by the Committee in this regard are as follows:-

- (1) (i) All rules should be given short-title.
 - (ii) All amendments in rules should be given short titles. The title should show the serial number of the amendment and the 'year' of making.
 - (iii) All titles, besides being given in the body, should be given at the top also. [Para 44, 3R, 1 LS]
- (2) The 'year' in the short title to all rules whether original or amended should conform to the 'year' of publication of the Gazette Notification.

[Para 8.3, 2R, 13 LS]

(3) The short title should not be too long describing the entire content, rather than indicating the substance of the rules.

[Para 4.3, 5R, 14 LS]

4.2. The Committee have time and again emphasized that giving of short title to all rules, whether principal or amendment, is very essential for facility of reference and tracing by all concerned. The 'year' indicated in the short-title of Rules, Regulations, Bye-laws etc. should be in conformity with the 'year' of their publication in the Gazette of India so as to facilitate easy location of such statutory 'order'. If the year indicated in the short-title is at variance with the 'year' of publication, there may be difficulty in locating the rules and regulations from year-wise lists. It has been an oft-repeated recommendation of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation that the short title of rules should bear the year in which they are published.

4.3. The following shortcomings have, often, been observed during the course of examination of various Rules, Regulations, Bye-Laws etc.:-

- (i) The 'year' in the short-title is in variance with the 'year' of the publication.
- (ii) The short title is too long describing the entire content rather than indicating the substance;

A. Indication of incorrect year in the short title of Rules, Regulation, etc.

4.4. Among the above mentioned infirmities in the short-title, one of the recurring errors pertains to 'variance with the year of publication'. Way back in 1972, the Committee <u>vide</u> paras 27 and 28 of their Fifth Report of the Fifth Lok Sabha had then desired that the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) should devise in consultation with the Government of India Press, some procedure for making consequential changes in the short title particularly when the rules are sent by the Ministries towards the end of a year and are published in the next year. The matter was, accordingly, taken up by the Ministry of Law and Justice with the Chief Controller of Printing and Stationery to make consequential changes in the short title of the rules with regard to the year in which the rule is made and the serial numbers of the amending rules. Although the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) had issued instructions to the Directorate of Printing and all Ministries/Department of Central Government <u>vide</u> their OM No. 4(3)/2012- L.I. dated 29.06.2012 (Annexure-I), it is, however, time and again observed that the Ministries do not strictly adhere to the recommendations of the Committee in this regard. A list of cases is appended (Annexure-II) to this Memorandum.

4.5. Compounding the aforementioned lackadaisical approach of the Ministries is the delay in issuing corrigenda to rectify such errors. As per the recommendation of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, a corrigendum should be issued within 30 days from the date of publication in the Official Gazette in such cases where there is discrepancy in the year of publication. The Committee had recommended that the responsibility of a Ministry/Department should not cease with the sending of a notification to the press. After the rules/regulations, etc, have been published in the Gazette, the Ministries/Departments concerned should take immediate steps to examine whether the same have been correctly printed, and if necessary, to issue corrigendum thereto. It may be observed that despite the above recommendations of the

Committee, in most of the cases, it is only when a reference is made by the Committee, pointing out the lacuna in the short title, that the Ministry starts initiating action to correct the discrepancy.

4.6. The Committee note that the mismatch in the 'year' shown in the short title of Rules, Regulations etc. and the year of publication of the rules continues to occur year after year, despite the Committee pointing out several such cases in the past. Disparity in the year shown in short title and the year of publication causes inconvenience in locating and referencing of Rules, Regulations, etc. The reluctance on the part of Ministries in correcting discrepancies when pointed out by the Committee reflects lack of understanding of the significance of this requirement. The Committee observe that in most of the cases the Ministries initiate action for correction of such errors only on being pointed out by the Committee. However, referral for rectification of such avoidable errors take away valuable time of the Committee. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that the responsibility of a Ministry/Department does not cease with the sending of the notification to the Press. After the rules/regulations etc. have been published in the Gazette, the Ministries/Departments concerned should take immediate steps to examine whether the same have been correctly printed and whether year in the short title tally with the year of publication and if necessary, to issue the corrigendum thereto. The Committee further reiterate their recommendation that such corrigenda should be issued within 30 days from the date of publication of rules/regulations etc. in the official Gazette. The Committee, therefore, desire that their recommendation should be strictly complied with by the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs should issue fresh instructions in this regard to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India.

4.7. The Committee also note that the discrepancy in the 'year' in the short title and the year of actual publication occurs when the Rules are sent by the

Ministries/Departments for publication towards the end of a year and these are published by the Press in the beginning of the next year. Rectification of such discrepancies, which though appears to be minor, is important as such discrepancies would make location and referencing of Rules difficult. The recurrence of similar mistakes in a large number of cases indicates that no procedure has been devised in consultation with the Government of India Press for making consequential change in the short title of such cases. Although the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative instructions to Directorate Department) had issued of Printing and all Ministries/Department of Central Government vide their OM No. 4(3)/2012- L.I. dated 29.06.2012 (Annexure-I), it is, however, time and again observed that the Ministries do not strictly adhere to the recommendations of the Committee in this regard. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) should once again issue suitable instructions to the Directorate of Printing and all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India for making consequential change in the short title of such cases and avoid occurrence of such infirmities in the Rules, Regulation, Bye-laws etc. in future. The Committee may also be apprised of the action taken on this recommendation.

B. <u>Short title being too long</u>

4.8. During the examination of Rules/Regulation mentioned in Annexure-II, it was also noticed that the short title of the Rules/Regulations was too long. Attention of the Ministries/Departments was invited to the recommendation of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation made in para 4.3 of their Fifth Report (14th Lok Sabha) that the short title should not be too long describing the entire content, rather than indicating the substance of the rules.

4.9. The Committee also note that short titles of the Rules/Regulations in some cases are too long which should be well avoided. This trend in fact goes against some of the basic tenets of legislative drafting. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their

recommendation that the short title should not be too long describing the entire content, rather than indicating the substance of the rules. The Committee desire the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to issue necessary instructions to all Ministries/Departments of Government so that such patent errors of omission do not recur.

New Delhi; <u>18 December, 2015</u> 27 Agrahayana, 1937 (Saka) DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI Chairperson, Committee on Subordinate Legislation

Annexure-I

Most Immediate

F.No.4 (3)/2012- L.I Government of India Ministry of Law and Justice Legislative Department ***

> Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, 29th June, 2012

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Infirmities in the short-title of rules, regulation, bye-laws etc. - regarding.

The undersigned is directed to refer to Lok Sabha Secretariat's O.M. No. 38/15/(14)/COSL/2010 dated 9th May, 2012 on the above mentioned subject. The Lok Sabha Secretariat has observed therein that in the scrutiny of Rules, Regulations, etc, framed by Ministries, it is found that various infirmities such as non-tallying of year, non-indication of the year of making, amending the rules, long short-title, etc., continues to occur in the Rules/Regulations. The Secretariat has also stated therein that the Committee has been repeatedly drawing attention of the Ministries to these infirmities and has also made several recommendations, which are as follows:

- (1) (i) All rules should be given short-title.
 - (ii) All amendments in rules should be given short titles. The title should show the serial number of the amendment and 'year' of making.
 - (iii) All titles, besides being given in the body, should be given at the top also. (Para 44 of Third Report of 1st Lok Sabha)

(2) The 'year' in the short title to all rules whether original or amended should confirm to the 'year' of publication of the Gazette Notification. (Para 8.3 of Second report of 13th Lok Sabha)

(3) The short title should not be too long describing the entire content, rather than indicating the substance of the rules. (Para 4.3 of Fifth report of 14^{th} Lok Sabha)

2. The Lok Sabha Secretariat has also mentioned therein that even after the due instructions were issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) to the Chief Controller of Printing and Stationary to make consequential changes in the short-title of the rules with regard to the year in which

the rule is made and the number of the amending rules, such infirmitic) still continues to occur in the Rules/Regulations.

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In view of the above, you are requested to take note of the above mentioned recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation so that necessary consequential changes in the short-title of the rules with regard to year in which the rules are made and number of the amending rules are made/carried out and indicate correct year in the short title and avoid occurrence of such infirmities in the Rules/Regulations in future.

(K.V.Kumar) Deputy Legislative Counsel Tel.No. 23384841

Directorate of Printing, 'B' Wing, Nirman Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi-110108.

Copy for information and strict compliance:

All Ministries/Departments of Government of India

<u>Annexure -II</u>

List of referred cases where infirmities in the short-title to the rules have been noticed

I. List of cases in which short title does not tally with the year of publication

S.No.	File No.	NameoftheRules/Regulations/Ordersandinfirmities observed thereof	Action taken by the Ministry
1.	38/1(14)/COSL/2011	The Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Rules, 2010 (SO 136 of 2011) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	Ministry have agreed to issue a corrigendum
2.	38/1(17)/COSL/2011	The Ministry of Agriculture, Central Poultry Development Organisation and Random Sample Poultry Performance Testing Centre, Farm Manager (Group C) Post Recruitment Rules, 2010 (GSR 40 of 2011) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	Corrigendum by rectifying the errors had been sent by the Ministry
3.	38/1(18)/COSL/2011	Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Directorate of Extension, Director (Farm Information Unit), Joint Director (Farm Information), Assistant Editor (Hindi) Recruitment Rules, 2010 (GSR 62 of 2011) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	Ministry have agreed to issue a corrigendum
4.	38/13(4)/COSL/2011	The Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro- organism/Genetically Engineering Organisms or Cells (Amendment) Rules, 2010 (GSR 1-E of 2011) – Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	Ministry have agreed to issue a corrigendum
5.	38/15(2)/COSL/2011	Income-tax Department (Multi Tasking Staff) Recruitment Rules, 2010 (GSR 30-E of 2011) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	Ministry have agreed to issue a corrigendum

6.	38/46(6)/COSL/2013	The Land and Development Office (Superintendent Group 'B' Non- Gazetted Post) Recruitment Rules, 2012 (GSR 301 of 2012)	Ministry have agreed to issue a corrigendum
7.	11/13(3)/COSL/2014	The Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Poster Artist, Group 'C' post, Recruitment Rules, 2013	Ministry have not agreed to issue a corrigendum In future efforts would be make to publish the Gazette Notification in the same year. Hence no change in the same may be envisaged.
8.	11/31(1)/COSL/2014	The Ministry of Minority Affairs (Driver) Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 23)	The Govt. of India Press, Mayapuri, Ring Road, New Delhi has been requested by the Ministry to publish the necessary corrigendum to this effect. vide OM No. A-12018/1/2009-Estt. dated 6 August, 2014
9.	11/42(1)/COSL/2014	The Department of Rural Development, Senior Roneo Operator, Group 'C' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 7 of 2014)	The RRs was initiated in the year 2013, after vetting from Legislative Department of Ministry of Law & Justice obtained on 31.12.2013 sent for publishing the Recruitment rules in the Gazette of India on 03.01.2014. The RRs, 2013 were published in the Gazette of India dated 18 th January, 2014.
10.	11/13(1)/COSL/2014	The Defence Research and Development Service (Amendment) Rules, 2013 (SRO 11)	The Ministry has stated that issuing of corrigendum may not be required <u>vide</u> -OM No. DHRD/76205/DRDS/RRs/C/P/1 3 dated 5 August, 2014. The Committee considered and adopted the Memorandum (No. 13) at their sitting held on 6.4.2015 and forwarded to the Ministry for implementation.
11.	11/42(1)/COSL/2014	The Department of Rural Development, Senior Roneo Operator, Group 'C' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 7 of 2014).	Ministry have not agreed to issue a corrigendum

12.	11/51(1)/COSL/2014	The Department of Publication, Cashier, Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 9 of 2014).	OM issued to Ministry 10.6.14
13.	11/52(2)/COSL/2014	The Minis)try of Water Resources, Central Soil and Material Research Station, New Delhi Group 'A' Posts, Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 65 of 2014	"necessary amendment has been carried out in the notification and the same has forwarded to Govt. of India Press for publication
14.	11/25(5)/COSL/2014	The Technical Training Institute of Daman and Diu, Principal, Goup 'A' Posts, Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 68 of 2014).	OM issued to Ministry 01.1.15
15	11/23(13)/COSL/2014	The Ministry of Home Affairs, Deptt. of Official Language, Central Hindi Training Institute, Hindi Teaching Scheme Joint Director (Hindi Typing and Hindi Stenography), Recruitment Rules, 2014 (GSR 70 of 2014).	necessary amendment has been carried out in the notification and the same has forwarded to Govt. of India Press for publication
16.	11/23(1)/COSL/2014	The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (Senior Laboratory Assistant) Recruitment Rules, 2012 (GSR 670-E of 2012)	Corrigendum has been issued on 11.6.2014 to Govt. Press to publish in the Gazette.
17.	11/6(1)/COSL/2014	The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, Stenographer 'D' Recruitment Rules, 2013	OM issued to Ministry of 11.9.14.
18.	38/20(11)/COSL/2011	The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Multi Tasking Staff) Recruitment Rules, 2010 (GSR 72 of 2011) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	Ministry have agreed to issue a corrigendum
19.	38/20(12)/COSL/2011	The National Council of Educational Research and Training (Secretary) Recruitment Rules, 2010 (GSR 58 of 2011) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	The Min. of Human Resource Development has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Law & Justice for issuing a corrigendum,
20	38/7(3)/COSL/2010	The Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Commercial Radio Operator's Certificate of Proficiency and Licence to Operate Wireless Telegraphy) Amendment Rules, 2009 (GSR 7-E of 2010) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	Ministry have agreed to issue a corrigendum

21.	38/7(4)/COSL/2010	The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Department of Information Technology (Group 'B' posts) Recruitment Rules, 2009 (GSR 32-E of 2010) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	OM issued and the reply has not been received
22.	38/15(9)/COSL/2010	The Prevention of Money-Laundering (the manner of forwarding a Copy of the Order of Provisional Attachment of Property along with the Material, and Copy of the Reasons along with the Material in respect of Survey, to the Adjudicating Authority and its period of Retention) Amendment Rules, 2009 (GSR 18-E, 19-E, 20-E of 2010) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	
23.	38/17(12)/COSL/2010	The Central Health Service (Amendment) Rules, 2009 (GSR 32 of 2010) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	Corrigendum issued <u>vide</u> GSR No. 80 dated 18.2.2011
24.	38/19(8)/COSL/2010	The Central Reserve Police Force (Combatised Para-Medical Posts) Recruitment (Second Amendment) Rules, 2009, (GSR 47-E of 2010) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication.	Ministry have agreed to issue a corrigendum
25.	38/20(3)/COSL/2010	 (i)The All India Council for Technical Education (Chairman) Recruitment Rules, 2009 (GSR 52-E of 2010). (ii)The All India Council for Technical Education (Vice-Chairman) Recruitment Rules, 2009 (GSR 53-E of 2010). (iii)The All India Council for Technical Education (Chairman) Recruitment Rules, 2009 (SO 50-E of 2010) - Year in short title does not tally with the year of publication. 	

		II Short title being too long	
26.	38/15(14)/COSL/2010	The Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records of the Nature and Value of Transactions, the Procedure and Manner of Maintaining and Time for Furnishing Information and Verification and Maintenance of Records of the Identity of the Clients of the Banking Companies, Financial Institutions and Intermediaries) Second Amendment Rules, 2010 (GSR 508-E of 2010) - The short title is too long	481-E dated 24.6.2011 by amending the

APPENDIX I

(Vide Para 4 of the Introduction of the Report)

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDITIONS MADE IN THE TENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Summary of Recommendations SI.No. **Reference to Para** No. in the Report 3 1 2 1. The Ministry of Water Resources, the Central Water Engineering (Group A) Service Rules, 2013 (GSR 252 of 2013). 1.4 The Committee note that as per the provisions contained in subrule 3 of Rule 8 of the Ministry of Water Resources, the Central Water Engineering (Group A) Service Rules, 2013, a probationer can be discharged or reverted back if the Controlling Authority is of the opinion that such officer is not fit for confirmation in the service. The Committee observe that rule does not contain any provision for protecting the interests of the probationer, in case the probationer is discharged or reverted back to the post held by him earlier. The Ministry of Water Resources who were asked to clarify the issue had stated that discharge from service is governed by Government of India's instructions/guidelines issued from time to time including DOPT's OM regarding confirmation/extension of probation period which inter-alia include safeguards to ensure adherence with the principles of natural justice. 1.5 The Committee are of the view that before discharging from service or reverting back to the post held earlier by the incumbent, the probationer should be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard. The Committee would like to point out that while framing rules the Ministry should mention in clear and unambiguous terms in the rules that, before taking a final decision the probationer would be given an opportunity of being heard as per Government of India's instructions/guidelines issued from time to time. This would make the rules self contained and would leave no scope of being interpreted differently by different persons more so to the disadvantage of the affected persons.

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

		The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry to amend rule 8 (3) of the aforesaid rules to incorporate provision for providing the probationer an opportunity of being heard before a final decision is taken by the Controlling Authority.
	1.6	The Committee further note that the method of recruitment prescribed for the duty posts in Non Functional Second Grade at SI. No. 5 (a) contained in schedule III carry the risk of being subjectively interpreted. The Committee observe that the very probability of subjective interpretation is indicative of prevalent loopholes in the rules. The Committee note from the reply of the Ministry that the method of recruitment for the above posts was incorporated based on the DoPT OM No. 28038/1/88-Estt. (D) dated 9 th October, 1989. The Committee desire that the clarification so furnished by the Ministry might be suitably incorporated in the rules to avoid any subjective interpretation of the rules.
2.		 (i) The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Labour Bureau, Data Entry Operator Grade 'D', Group B Post, Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 246 of 2013). (ii) The Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Courts Group B Posts Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 269 of 2013).
	2.4	The Committee note that as per the entry contained in column 11 of the Schedule appended to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Labour Bureau, Data Entry Operator Grade 'D', Group B Post, Recruitment Rules, 2013, specifying the eligibility for promotion, only the name of the feeder post along with the length of service has been mentioned. However, the details regarding the Pay Band and Grade Pay or Pay Scale attached with the feeder post i.e. Data Entry Operator Grade 'B' have been found to be absent. The Committee are constrained to observe that in the absence of the details of the pay band of pay scale attached with the feeder cadre which form a crucial part of a post, the existing information which has been provided about the feeder cadre is incomplete and leaves the scope for ambiguity. The Committee, however, like to express their satisfaction over the fact that the Ministry are in agreement with the views of the Committee and have proposed to amend the rules to the desired

	2.7	 effect by incorporating the grade pay and pay band attached with the feeder grade i.e. Data Entry Operator Grade 'B'. The Committee desire that the Ministry to bring out the necessary amendment expeditiously and take necessary steps for avoidance of such errors in the future. The Committee note that the entry under Column 10 of Schedule appended to the Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Courts Group 'B' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 269 of 2013), pertaining to method of recruitment prescribes that the direct metric.
		direct recruitment is the mode of recruitment for the post of Personal Assistant. It has also been provided that the vacancies arising out of long duration leave will be filled in by deputation. However, the eligibility criteria prescribed for deputation also includes qualification as prescribed for direct recruits, including skill test norms, which is contrary to the practice normally followed in this regard. The Committee, however, note with satisfaction that after the clarification was sought from the Ministry in this regard, the Ministry after consultation with UPSC, have proposed to suitably amend the rules by prescribing separate eligibility conditions for filling up the post on deputation basis as distinct from that required for direct recruits in terms of qualification and experience for the post of Personal Assistant. The Committee desire that the Ministry may bring out necessary amendment to the rules at the earliest and to be more vigilant in future while drafting the recruitment rules.
	2.8	The Committee also find it pertinent to emphasize here that utmost care need to be taken while drafting recruitment rules, which needless to say have far reaching ramifications <u>vis-a-vis</u> persons concerned.
3.		 (i) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Multi Tasking Staff, Recruitment Rules, 2012 (GSR 64 of 2014). (ii) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation Multi Tasking Staff Recruitment Rules, 2012 (GSR 81 of 2014).
	3.4	The Committee note that in the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Multi Tasking Staff, Recruitment Rules, 2012 (GSR 64

& 81 of 2014), there was an inordinate delay of 1 year and 4 months in publication in the official Gazettes. Also, in GSR 81, the year in the Short Title did not tally with the year of publication of the said Rules in the Gazette of India. The Committee are quite concerned to note that the Ministry had been negligent in obtaining the information regarding the publication of the Recruitment Rules which were sent by them for publication on 5.12.2012 to Govt. of India Press which were subsequently found to be published vide GSR No. 304 dated 15.12.2012. Since the Ministry did not track the publication of rules by GOI Press. the Ministry vide its letter dated 25 March, 2014 requested the Government of India Press to furnish printed copies of the Notification. The Committee find it disconcerting to note that it took as long as 1 year and 3 months time for the Ministry to take note of non receipt of printed copies of the Notification. Further, to the utter chagrin of the Committee, the Ministry in its clarification have submitted that, there has not been any delay in publication of the rules in the Gazette of India. This certainly reflects the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry in dealing with serious issues like publication of the Recruitment Rules. The Committee, therefore, find the approach of the Ministry in such important matters totally unacceptable. 3.5. The Committee also note that after the receipt of printed copies of the Notification from the Press, the Ministry noticed discrepancy in the Notification regarding year of framing posts under Col. 2 of the schedule and, therefore, forwarded a corrected version to GOI Press as advised by the Press. The Committee find it simply incomprehensible to note that instead of issuing an amendment notification as was desired by the Ministry, the GOI Press on their own without any intimation to the Ministry published fresh Notifications vide GSR Nos. 64 of 2014 and 81 of 2014. The Committee take a very serious note of the utterly casual and callous approach of the Ministry in publication of Recruitment Rules in the Gazette Notification as the Ministry after sending the corrected version to the GOI Press, again didn't keep track of printing of the amendment Notification till the Committee took up

the matter of delay in printing of GSRs 64 and 81 of 2014. The Committee, therefore, wish to emphatically stress and recommend that that the responsibility of the Ministry should not

		cease with the sending of a Notification to the Press. The Ministry should be vigilant enough to keep track of the Notification after it is sent to the Press for printing and after the rules / regulations etc. have been published in the Gazette. Further, the Ministry should also take immediate steps to examine whether the same have been correctly printed and if necessary, to issue corrigenda thereto. The Committee expect that at least from now on the Ministry would now devise an efficient mechanism and exercise utmost care in timely publication of Gazettes in coordination with GOI Press.
	3.6.	As a corrective measure, but only after the matter was seized by the Committee, the Ministry vide GSR 365-E dated 30.4.2015 rescinded the GSRs 64 and 81 dated 5.12.2012 published in Gazette of India dated 5.4.2014 and 26.4.2014 respectively by GOI Press. Further, notification amending the notification issued vide GSR 304 dated 12.12.2012 has been notified vide GSR 366-E dated 30.4.2015. The Committee recommend that notification no. 365-E and 366-E dated 30.4.2015 should be laid in the House and the Committee may also be apprised of the same.
4.		Infirmities in the short-title of Rules, Regulations, Bye-Laws etc.
	4.6.	The Committee note that the mismatch in the 'year' shown in the short title of Rules, Regulations etc. and the year of publication of the rules continues to occur year after year, despite the Committee pointing out several such cases in the past. Disparity in the year shown in short title and the year of publication causes inconvenience in locating and referencing of Rules, Regulations, etc. The reluctance on the part of Ministries in correcting discrepancies when pointed out by the Committee reflects lack of understanding of the significance of this requirement. The Committee observe that in most of the cases the Ministries initiate action for correction of such errors only on being pointed out by the Committee. However, referral for rectification of such avoidable errors take away valuable time of the Committee. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that the responsibility of a Ministry/Department does not cease with the

sending of the notification to the Press. After the rules/regulations etc. have been published in the Gazette, the Ministries/Departments concerned should take immediate steps to examine whether the same have been correctly printed and whether year in the short title tally with the year of publication and if necessary, to issue the corrigendum thereto. The Committee further reiterate their recommendation that such corrigenda should be issued within 30 days from the date of publication of rules/regulations etc. in the official Gazette. The Committee, therefore, desire that their recommendation should be strictly complied with by the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs should issue fresh instructions in this regard to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India.

The Committee also note that the discrepancy in the 'year' in the short title and the year of actual publication occurs when the Rules are sent by the Ministries/Departments for publication towards the end of a year and these are published by the Press in the beginning of the next year. Rectification of such discrepancies, which though appears to be minor, is important as such discrepancies would make location and referencing of Rules difficult. The recurrence of similar mistakes in a large number of cases indicates that no procedure has been devised in consultation with the Government of India Press for making consequential change in the short title of such cases. Although the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) had issued instructions to Directorate of Printing and all Ministries/Department of Central Government vide their OM No. 4(3)/2012- L.I. dated 29.06.2012 (Annexure-I), it is, however, time and again observed that the Ministries do not strictly adhere to the recommendations of the Committee in this regard. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) should once again issue suitable instructions to the Directorate of Printing and all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India for making consequential change in the short title of such cases and avoid occurrence of such infirmities in the Rules, Regulation, Bye-laws etc. in future. The Committee may also be apprised of the action taken on this recommendation.

4.7

4.9	The Committee also note that short titles of the Rules/Regulations in some cases are too long which should be well avoided. This trend in fact goes against some of the basic tenets of legislative drafting. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that the short title should not be too long describing the entire content, rather than indicating the substance of the rules. The Committee desire the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to issue necessary instructions to all Ministries/Departments of Government so that such patent errors of omission do not recur.
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APPENDIX II

(Vide Para 5 of the Introduction of the Report)

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION (2015-2016)

The second sitting of the Committee (2015-16) was held on Tuesday, the 13th October, 2015 from 1530 to 1615 hours in Committee Room No. 62, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

1. Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi <u>Chairperson</u>

MEMBERS

- 2. Shri Idris Ali
- 3. Shri C.R. Chaudhary
- 4. Shri S. P. Muddahanumegowda
- 5. Shri Shyama Charan Gupta
- 6. Adv. Narendra Keshav Sawaikar
- 7. Shri Ram Kumar Sharma
- 8. Shri Nandi Yellaiah

SECRETARIAT

- Shri Ravindra Garimella Joint Secretary
 Shri Ajay Kumar Garg Director
- 3. Smt. Jagriti Tewatia Deputy Secretary
- 2. XX XX XX XX XX

- 3. XX XX XX XX XX
- 4. The Committee then considered the following Memoranda:-
 - (i) **Memorandum No. 21 -** The Ministry of Water Resources, the Central Water Engineering (Group A) Service Rules, 2013 (GSR 252 of 2013).
 - (ii) Memorandum No. 22 (i) The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Labour Bureau, Data Entry Operator Grade 'D', Group B Post, Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 246 of 2013) & (ii) The Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Courts Group 'B' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2013 (GSR 269 of 2013).
 - (iii) Memorandum No. 23 The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Multi Tasking Staff, Recruitment Rules, 2012 (GSR 64 of 2014) and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Multi Tasking Staff, Recruitment Rules, 2012 (GSR 81 of 2014).
 - (iv) **Memorandum No. 24 -** Infirmities in the short-title of Rules, Regulations, Bye-Laws etc.

5. After deliberations, the Committee decided to incorporate the points raised in the Memoranda Nos. 21 to 24 in their Reports to be formulated in this regard.

The Committee then adjourned.

**Omitted portion of the Minutes are not relevant to this Report