

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3911
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
APPOINTMENT OF CIC
Kataria Shri Rattan Lal

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

- (a) whether the Government follows any norms for providing appropriate representation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women while appointing the Chief Information Commissioners under the Right to Information Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and number of Information Commissioners appointed category-wise;
- (c) whether several Chief Information Commissioners appointed in various States and at the Central level are retired officers and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the number of RTI applications which are lying pending in the office of the Chief Information Commissioners; and
- (e) the action being taken by the Government to improve the condition in the CICs office and clearance of pending cases?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) & (b): As per Section 12(5) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance. Reservation is not applicable in the appointment of Chief Information Commissioners under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

(c): Chief Information Commissioners, including the present Chief Information Commissioner, in the Central Information Commission (CIC) have been retired officers.

State-wise data is not centrally maintained.

(d): As on 30.07.2014, the total number of RTI applications pending pertaining to the office of the Commission is 174. Besides this, as on 31.07.2014, 27335 appeals and complaints are pending in the Commission.

(e): The Central Information Commission has been granted autonomy in recruitment of staff. Recruitment Rules (RRs) have been notified for all the 14 categories of posts in the Central Information Commission. The Commission is in the process of making appointment to the various posts.

In addition to the above, Government has appointed five more Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission w.e.f. 22nd November, 2013.

The Government has also taken several steps like issue of guidelines for the Central Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities enabling them to supply information/dispose of first appeal effectively resulting in less number of appeals to the Commission.