

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4034  
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000  
CURTAILMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE  
BHUMA NAGI REDDY;SUBODH MOHITE;UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether the Government have formulated a time-bound five-steps package to downsize the administrative structure by June, 2000;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to scrap several commissions and departments under ministries as part of its efforts to downsize bureaucracy and rein in expenditure;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether staff strength of the Central Government are increasing despite promise of downsizing; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e)&(f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b),(c),

(d), (e) & (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4034 FOR ANSWER ON 19 APRIL, 2000

(a), (b), (c) & (d) : The Government has been alive to the need for curtailing the size of the administrative structure and taking steps in this direction. The Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) has been issuing instructions from time to time to control creation of Plan and Non-Plan posts. In August, 1999, instructions were issued by that Ministry to all the Ministries/Departments to undertake a review of all the posts which were lying vacant in the Ministries/Departments and in their Attached and Subordinate Offices, etc., in consultation with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). These instructions, inter alia, envisage that till the review is completed, no vacant posts will be filled up except with the approval of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). Further, such Ministries/Departments as had not fully implemented the Government's decision to achieve reduction in the number of posts (as on 1.1.1992) in compliance with the across-the-board 10% cut ordered in January, 1992 were asked to fully implement that decision immediately. According to the information available with the Ministry of Finance, about 1.6 lakh posts in various categories have already been abolished as a result of this exercise.

As a part of the administrative measure to restructure/rightsize the government, all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have been asked to take action on the following measures :

- (i) To effect a 10% cut on the sanctioned strength as on 1.1.1992, if not already done and to bring about a further 10% reduction in the number of posts created between January, 1992 and December, 1999.
- (ii) To review all the posts lying vacant in every Ministry/Department and its attached and subordinate offices in accordance with the guidelines contained in Department of Expenditure O.M.No.7(3)/E(Coord)/99 dated 5.8.1999.
- (iii) To review all temporary posts with a view to discontinue them with effect from 28 February, 2000.
- (iv) To implement Staff Inspection Unit(SIU) reports agreed to by the Ministries/Departments and their attached and subordinate offices within a specified time-frame not extending beyond June, 2000.
- (v) To consider introduction of Desk Officer System in more areas.

(e) & (f): The number of sanctioned (civilian) posts in the Central Government as on 31 March, 1996, 31 March, 1997 and 31 March, 1998 was 42.18 lakhs, 42.18 lakhs and 41.93 lakhs respectively. There was a marginal decrease of the order of about 25,000 in the number of sanctioned posts as on 31 March, 1998 compared to 31 March, 1996. Against the above mentioned sanctioned strength, the actual number of employees in position was 38.93 lakhs on 31 March, 1996, 38.95 lakhs on 31 March, 1997 and 38.47 lakhs on 31 March, 1998.