

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:311  
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004  
DOWNSIZING OF MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS  
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

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

- (a) whether the Government is downsizing Central Ministries/Departments over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of posts in different categories abolished and persons retrenched during the last two years as a result of downsizing; and
- (d) the time by which large scale recruitment for Central Government posts is likely to take place?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK-SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 311 (9TH POSITION) BY SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2004.

(a) to (c): The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) had identified about 42000 posts for abolition. Against this, the concerned Ministries/Departments have identified about 24000 posts for abolition. About 18700 of these posts have already been abolished.

Based on the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC), the Budget proposals for the year 2001-02 envisaged optimization of direct recruitment. Accordingly, Department of Personnel & Training issued instructions on May 16, 2001 regarding optimization of direct recruitment to civilian posts. As per these instructions, as about 3 per cent of staff retire every year and if fresh recruitment is limited to 1 per cent, a reduction in manpower of 10 per cent in five years can be achieved. Therefore, direct recruitment should be limited to 1/3 of the direct recruitment vacancies arising in a year subject to a ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength. Around 64000 posts have been identified/recommended for abolition and around 22400 posts have been identified to be filled up as a result of these instructions during the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. Category wise details of the abolished posts are not centrally maintained. Since the orders stipulate abolition of vacant posts only, no retrenchment is involved.

(d): There is no fixed pattern of recruitment in the Central Government and it depends from year to year, based on vacancies arising in a year. The assessment of vacancies is finally done by the administrative Ministries as per extant guidelines of the Government.