

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:426
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
RECOMMENDATIONS OF CORE GROUP OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS
Oram Shri Jual;Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

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

- (a) the recommendations given by the Core Group of Administrative Reforms (CGAR);
- (b) whether the Government proposes to reduce the age limit for entry into Civil Services as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated January 15, 2005;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to take steps to protect the interests of post-graduates and the graduates from the disciplines like law, Medicines and Engineering who may not be able to get even the minimum three chances for appearing in the Civil Services Examinations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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) A statement is attached.

(b), (c),(d) & (e): Alagh Committee on Recruitment and Selection Procedure (2001) and Hota Committee on Civil Services Reforms (2004) have recommended lowering of maximum age for entry into civil services. No decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.426 BY SHRI P. MOHAN AND SHRI JUAL ORAM

A Core Group on Administrative Reforms (CGAR) was constituted on 19 February, 2003 to formulate specific changes in the systems and procedures in consultation with the Ministries/Departments concerned and to devise strategies for changing attitudes. Core Group is headed by Cabinet Secretary with seven Secretaries of Government of India as Members.

2. The following areas were addressed by the Core Group in its deliberations :

- (i) How to make the administration efficient and transparent?
- (ii) How to make the administration responsive and citizen-friendly?
- (iii) How to make the administration accountable?
- (iv) Simplification of rules, regulations and procedures and creating public awareness about them
- (v) elegation of authority from 'nodal' Ministries to 'functional' Ministries, within the Ministries and from the Ministries to their field offices
- (vi) Introducing e-governance in Central Government offices
- (vii) Civil Service Reforms
- (viii) Outsourcing of the work done in Government offices for efficiency, cost control and cutting down staff expenditure with specific focus on Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)

3. Based on the decisions of the Committee of Secretaries, subsequently endorsed by the Core Group on Administrative Reforms, the Deptt. of Expenditure, Deptt. of Legal Affairs, Deptt. of Health, Planning Commission and Ministry of Civil Aviation have issued instructions further delegating their authorities to the functional Ministries. 20 items relating to DoPT were also approved for delegation. DoPT has issued instructions in respect of certain items.

4. CGAR tentatively identified 18 Core Mission Projects (8 under Central List and 10 under State List) under the national e-governance programme for implementation on priority basis. These are now being operationalised by the concerned Ministries/State Governments.

5. The CGAR made recommendations in areas including (i) Accountability : Holding Department accountable for results and improving the service delivery (ii) Civil Service Reforms covering areas like recruitment age, Curriculum recommendations, Mid-Career training and training of Chief Information Officers for managing e-governance projects (iii) Central Staffing Scheme (iv) empanelment and domain allocation (v) Allotment of cadre and service allocation (vi) Civil Service Awards (vii) Code of Ethics for Civil Servants (viii) Model Code of Good Governance (ix) State of Governance Report (x) Protecting honest civil servants and weeding out the corrupt and incompetent officials (xi) Protecting honest civil servants taking bona fide commercial decision from prosecution and post retirement harassment and (xii) Redrafting of Annual Confidential Reports. These are under consideration of the Government.