



REPORT NO.

95

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

NINETY-FIFTH REPORT

on

**Demands for Grants (2018-2019) of
the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**

(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 14th March, 2018)

(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha 14th March, 2018)



Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
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Shortage of Residential Accommodation in CBI

3.11. On housing scenario, the CBI has informed that the present sanctioned strength of CBI is 7274 and the organization has only 1732 residential quarters at different places and 678 more residential quarters are proposed to be constructed/acquired. Against MoUD norms of Housing Satisfaction level of 70% in Delhi and 60% elsewhere, the overall satisfaction level is 23.85% presently, and it would be enhanced to 32.99% after construction of quarters at Maidangarhi, Delhi, Goa, Jabalpur, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram. Further, the housing satisfaction level is 15% at Delhi, 26.48% at Mumbai and 14.50% at Kolkata and there are no Quarters at ten locations, viz. Ranchi, ACB Ghaziabad, Jammu, Port Blair, Pune, Shillong, Shimla, Srinagar, Thiruvananthapuram and Madurai.

3.12. The Committee observes that even with the construction of additional quarters, a huge gap would still remain between the actual satisfaction level and that prescribed under the Ministry of Urban Development norms. Therefore, the Committee recommends that funds for acquiring land and building staff quarters for CBI at Delhi and other locations should be significantly enhanced, to bring the satisfaction level up to the level prescribed by the Ministry of Urban Development. The CBI should also ensure that funds allocated for the purpose are fully utilized. Further, the CBI in their ATR to this report is requested to provide a blueprint on achieving such levels of housing satisfaction in the agency.

STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION (SSC)

3.13. The Government of India constituted the Subordinate Services Commission on 4th November 1975, which was subsequently re-designated as the Staff Selection Commission w.e.f. 26th September, 1977. The Commission is mandated to make recruitment to Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) and Group 'C' (Non-Technical) posts in the Government of India. The Commission has also been assigned the additional responsibility of making recruitment to Group 'B' (Gazetted) posts of Assistant Accounts Officer and Assistant Audit Officer for the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

3.14. Today, the Staff Selection Commission is one of the largest recruiting agencies in the country in terms of number of applicants who apply for various posts in the Government of India. The number of applications (registered candidates) for various examinations of the SSC has increased manifold during the past decade. During the year 2008-09, the total number of candidates who registered for various examinations conducted by the Commission

was 9.94 lakh, which increased to over 2 crores in the FY 2016-17, which is more than 20 times the candidature registered in 2008-09. In the current FY 2017-18, the Commission is anticipating that approx. 2 crores candidates would be applying for various examinations to be conducted by SSC. This enormous increase in the size of candidature for various examinations conducted by the Commission has brought a plethora of challenges with it. The biggest challenge faced by the Commission is shortage of manpower at various levels vis-à-vis the increased workload. During the last ten years, there has been no increase in the sanctioned manpower strength of the Commission, which remains static at 481. Moreover, 115 posts are lying vacant as on 31.12.2017, i.e. 24% of the sanctioned strength of the Commission.

3.15. The Commission in their written reply to the questionnaire of the Committee has also provided details of the examinations cancelled by them during the past five years and reasons thereof and the details are given as under:

Table No. - XX

SSC – Examinations cancelled in past five years

Sl. No.	Name of Examination Cancelled	Reason(s)
1.	Combined Graduate Level Examination (CGLE), 2013	Various irregularities and malpractices
2.	Combined Higher Secondary Level Examination (CHSLE), 2013	Non-issue of admit card to the total no. of 432 candidates.
3.	CGLE, 2014	Loss of post examination material
4.	CHSLE, 2014	Cheating and malpractice cases at Raipur, Chandigarh, Allahabad and Delhi.
5.	Constable (GD) Examination, 2015	Cheating cases
6	SI / CAPF Examination, 2016	Leakage of question papers (OMR mode)
7	MTSE (NT), 2016	Leakage of question papers (OMR mode)
8	CGLE, 2016 (CBE – Tier I)	Leakage of question paper
	CGLE, 2016 (CBE – Tier II)	Server glitches affecting 9571 candidates

3.16. The Committee has been further informed by the Commission that as on 31.12.2017, there are 2220 court cases pending before various Courts in which SSC is a party. Out of these 2220 court cases, 08 cases are pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the remaining 2212 cases are pending before various High Courts and Benches of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

3.17. Under new initiatives, the Commission has informed that in line with the announcement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech (2016-17), Government of India has proposed to introduce a Common Eligibility Test (CET) to shortlist candidates for vacancies of Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) and below level posts in the Government of India. Through this exercise, the entire recruitment system would be revamped and rationalized in two distinct stages, i.e. (i) Tier-I - a Common Screening Test subsuming the preliminary Tier-I examinations conducted by all recruiting agencies of the Government of India, viz. SSC, Railways, Banking, etc; and (ii) Tier-II – the main Examinations to be conducted independently by the concerned recruiting agencies.

3.18. To kick start the process under the revised dispensation, candidates would mandatorily have to register themselves on a dedicated portal developed by the National Career Services (NCS) of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, which would generate a unique ID for each candidate. CETs would be conducted at three levels: (i) Matriculation Level; (ii) Higher Secondary (10+2) Level; and (iii) Graduation Level. About 5 crore candidates are estimated to register for all the three levels of CETs making it the largest examination in the world.

3.19. Considering the enormity and complexity of the task, the Group of Secretaries had recommended for creation of a Multi-Agency Body. However, subsequently, the Government has entrusted this responsibility to the Staff Selection Commission in lieu of the Multi-Agency Body, with assured Government support, for which the Commission has already submitted the requisite proposals to Government. It has been decided that in the Financial Year 2018-19, only one level of CETs, i.e. at the Graduation Level, would be conducted in February, 2019. In the successive year(s), all the three levels of examination would be conducted.

3.20. The Government has proposal to make CET scores valid for a period of two years. The candidates would use their scores for appearing in Tier-II examinations, which would be conducted independently by the respective recruiting agencies. There is also scope for the CET scores to be used by State Governments / Public Sector Undertakings / Private Sector for recruitment of their manpower.

3.21. On the query of some Members of the Committee, the Secretary, DoPT and the Chairman, SSC in their deposition before the Committee informed that as of now, the Government proposes to include only those examinations in CET which are presently

conducted in English and Hindi medium only. Later on, once they acquire necessary capability to conduct examinations in Eighth Schedule languages, only then they will start conducting CET in those languages.

3.22. In the past decade registration of candidates for various examinations conducted by the Commission has increased twenty folds, however, the sanctioned staff strength of the Commission has remained static during the same period and as of now they are working on a depleted staff strength of 3/4th of their sanctioned strength. Further, with the superimposition of an additional duty to the Commission for conducting Common Eligibility Test (CET) from next year, additional manpower and infrastructural support is required by the Commission. In view of this, the Committee strongly recommends that the present sanctioned strength of the Commission is thoroughly reviewed and sufficient resources in terms of manpower and infrastructure are provided to the Commission, so that it fulfills its mandate properly.

3.23. The SSC was created to ease the burden of the UPSC by taking-over the recruitment for posts below Group 'A' level. Over the years, the workload and responsibilities of the Commission have increased exponentially. However, the status of the Commission has remained of an 'Attached Body' under the DoPT. Thus, the Commission has to depend entirely on the Government for all its needs and has no autonomy. The Expert Group constituted by the Government in the year 2014, under the Chairmanship of Shri I.M.G. Khan, for reviewing the examination system in the SSC, had inter alia recommended according Statutory status to the Commission, which in turn would contribute to greater functional autonomy, faster decision making and efficiency in the overall performance and delivery of results by the Commission in the recruitment process. In this regard it is pertinent to mention that the Committee in its Seventy-sixth and Eighty-third Reports has supported the recommendations of the Expert Group to accord statutory status to the Commission. The Committee feels that a recruitment body of SSC's stature should be given autonomy at par with the UPSC and thus, recommends that Commission be given statutory status without any further delay.

3.24. As per the information provided by the Commission, the SSC has had to cancel Nine of its examinations, fully or partially, in past five years. Most recently, the SSC had to recommend for a CBI enquiry into allegations pertaining to the conduct of CGL (Tier-II) Examination 2017. Such cancellation of exams is a complete waste of efforts

and resources of both the aspirants and the Government and also dims the image of the Commission in the eyes of general public. The job aspirants lose their precious time and effort that they have put in preparing for those exams. On the other hand much of time and money of the Commission is lost and the user Departments have to wait more for getting shortlisted candidates for appointment. The Committee feels that the sanctity of examination process must be maintained and it is equally important that the trust of public in general and of examinees in particular, in the examination process is maintained at any cost. Therefore, the Committee recommends that learning from the past experiences, the Commission should spare no efforts in making the process of examination free from all types of malpractices and technical glitches. As the examinations have gone online and the IT infrastructure for conduct of examinations are hired from private institutions/labs and technical service providers, these entities should be closely supervised by the Commission and adequate number of Central Government officers should be deployed at examination centers in invigilation/supervisory capacity. In addition to this, regular audit of the hardware and software should be carried out by government agencies for making the examination foolproof. As the SSC has been entrusted with the responsibility for conducting Common Eligibility Test (CET) from next year, the Commission has got its work cut out to conduct the exam in a fair and efficient manner, free from all malpractices.

3.25. The Common Eligibility Test (CET) proposed to be conducted from next year is an ambitious endeavor of the Commission and in the long term will benefit both the Government and the job aspirants. It will reduce the number of examinations conducted by various agencies of the government and will save significant amount of money spent on conducting these examinations by different recruiting agencies. Conducting screening test (i.e. first stage) of any examination is very difficult as the number of applicants are huge compared to the actual number of seats slated to be filled. By using scores of the CET, the work of other recruiting agencies of conducting subsequent stages will become easier. In future, the CET scores may be further used by State Governments, if they so desire and even private companies may use it for short-listing candidates for employing them.

3.26 The Committee notes that initially the Government will be conducting the CET only in English and Hindi medium. The Committee feels that conducting this examination in only two languages will be disadvantageous to a large chunk of job