

Minutes of the Meeting dt. 23.04.2013

Present :

1. Shri Satyananda Mishra, Chief Information Commissioner
2. Smt Annapurna Dixit, Information Commissioner
3. Shri M.L. Sharma, Information Commissioner
4. Smt. Deepak Sandhu, Information Commissioner
5. Smt. Sushma Singh, Information Commissioner
6. Shri Vijay Sharma, Information Commissioner
7. Shri Rajiv Mathur, Information Commissioner
8. Shri Basant Seth, Information Commissioner
9. The Secretary, Addl. Secretary and other officers assisted the Commission.

Agenda-1 : The progress on the Recruitment/Deputation/Engagement of legal retainers and the outsourced members.

i. Recruitment on deputation :

Eight number of officers have been selected for joining against the vacancies of the posts of Section Officer, Assistant and PA on deputation basis in the Commission.

The proposal for recruitment on deputation for filling up of posts of Under Secretary and Sr. PPS has been approved and under submission to UPSC.

The proposal for recommending cases of various outsourced members, subject to the reservation criteria for their absorption in the Commission once again is being finalized to be submitted to the Government shortly.

ii. Engagement of legal retainers :

The Commission was informed that 88 candidates had been shortlisted out of total 589 applicants on the basis of the following criteria :

- a) At least 55% marks or equivalent CGPA in the qualifying examination.
- b) Post qualification or pre-qualification experience (cumulative duration of the experience should be minimum three months).

It was informed that call letters had already been sent to the shortlisted candidates to appear before the Selection Committee on 26th, 29th and 30th April, 2013 and the selection process was expected to be completed in the first week of May, 2013.

The Selection Committee has recommended the criteria of judging the performance of the shortlisted candidates as follows :

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| a) Written communication skills and legal drafting | 25 marks |
| b) Attitude, verbal communication and temperament | 25 marks |
| c) Knowledge and application on legal issues/laws and experience credentials | 50 marks |

Total : 100 marks

It was informed that the interviewees would be asked to prepare summary of decisions/orders on the legal issues to test the skills as per criteria (a) above during the interview. Based upon the performance in the interview, the short-listed candidates who have attended the interview will be arranged in order of descending scores. The names of the first 16 candidates will be kept in the merit list, names of next 16 candidates will be kept in the reserved list to be engaged in case the candidates in the merit list do not report for duty. The Selection Committee may not recommend any candidate, who is not found suitable for engagement based upon their performance during the interview.

It was decided that the Selection Committee would keep in mind that there is adequate representation of candidates from the reserved categories and women candidates. The Commission directed the Secretariat to complete the exercise so that the legal retainers are engaged at the earliest.

Agenda-2: Annual Convention of the Commission

It was decided that the Annual Convention of 2013 would be held on 3rd and 4th of September, 2013. The venue will be Vigyan Bhawan and in case of its non-availability, DRDO Bhawan would be considered as second option. The specific theme for the Convention would be decided later. There would be two panel sessions on the following topics :

- i. RTI – Transparency Vs. Right to Privacy;
- ii. RTI and inclusive growth

Further, it was decided to consult all the State Information Commissions regarding any other subject of topical importance for discussion such as RTI issues in service delivery to the citizens etc.

It was decided that the Hon'ble President of India would be requested to grace the inaugural function. Shri Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister of J&K would be requested to be the Chief Guest in the valedictory function. Dr. Ramachandra Guha, noted author and historian would be requested to deliver the keynote address.

The Secretariat was directed to take necessary action finalize the venue and find out about the conveniences of the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour so that the request letters could be addressed to them early.