

2,724 officers booked for corruption in year 2021: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: 2,724 officers were booked for corruption in the year 2021.

Disclosing this in the Lok Sabha today, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, informed the House that action was taken against 2,724 corrupt officials including 248 cases of prosecution sanction in 2021.

In reply to a question, Dr Jitendra said, as per information provided by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), final decision was taken by the respective competent authority on the advice of the CVC in 2,724 cases and out of these, 55 cases of deviation from the Commission's advice were noted. The Ministry / Department where the respective competent authority, including those in the organisations under them, took the final decision in the aforementioned 55 cases are - Ministry of



Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh giving reply in the Lok Sabha at New Delhi.

Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Textile, Ministry of Coal, Department of Fertilisers, Department of Atomic Energy, Ministry of Power, Department of Commerce, Department of Youth Affairs, Department of Higher Education, Government of NCT of Delhi, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of

Home Affairs. In reply to another DoPT related question, Dr Jitendra Singh informed the House that from the year 2018 to 2021, 4,798 persons with benchmark disabilities have been recruited through direct recruitment in the posts and services of the Central Government.

Dr Jitendra stated that several measures were initiated by the Government to create public awareness and assist candidates with benchmark disabilities in applying for relevant

posts. The Minister informed that facility of scribes for written examination / computer based examination are provided to the persons with Benchmark Disabilities candidates having benchmark disabilities in the category of blindness, locomotor disability (Both Arms Affected) and cerebral palsy if desired by the candidates and to the remaining candidates of Persons with Benchmark Disabilities on production of certificate from the Chief Medical Officer/Civil Surgeon/Medical Superintendent of a Government Health Care Institution at the time of examination. Compensatory time of twenty minutes per hour is also provided to such candidates and all such provisions are included in the notices of examination. On the question of measures being taken by the Government to create accessible workplaces for persons with

benchmark disabilities, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the measures already specified as per "Harmonised Guidelines & Standards for Universal Accessibility in India 2021", "Handbook on Barrier Free and Accessibility" and other manuals issued by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs/Central Public Works Department from time to time are being followed to create accessible workplace for persons with benchmark disabilities.

Filling of vacancies for persons with benchmark disabilities is a continuous process. With the enactment of 'The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016', four per cent of the total number of vacancies to be filled up by direct recruitment, in the cadre strength, in each group of posts, i.e. Group A, B and C, are reserved for such persons.

MSME DFO inaugurates Vendor Development Programme-cum-MSME Expo-2022 at Jammu Haat



A dignitary speaking at a programme in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development & Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO), Jammu under Ministry of MSME, Government of India on Wednesday inaugurated two week long MSME EXPO-cum-National Vendor Development Programme at Jammu Haat from December 21 to 31, 2022.

The programme was inaugurated by Anoo Malhotra, Director General, Department of Industries and Commerce, Jammu in presence of G Velladurai, Joint Director, MSME DFO Jammu, senior officers from major Central PSUs/J&K UT Departments.

During his welcome address, G Velladurai mentioned that UT of J&K is progressing day by day which is evident from the rise in number of Udyam registrations. Currently 1.60 lakh MSMEs are registered in UT of J&K as MSMEs on Udyam Portal, he added.

Anoo Malhotra congratulated MSME DFO office for

organising such programme which provide market accessibility to the MSME units. She deliberated on the fact that Jammu region needs multiple common facility centers for promotion and growth of MSMEs in the region. She said Industrial associations should come forward to avail the benefits from the wide range of schemes that ministry of MSME offers and ensured complete support from her office.

Lalit Mahajan, President Bari Brahmana Industrial Association appealed the MSMEs of the area to participate in programmes like VDPs and take maximum benefit of scheme of Ministry of MSME.

Naik Qayoom and Tariq Ahmad of Srinagar were appreciated by the Chief Guest for their innovation in developing Seed Sowing Machine and Safarion Processing Machine respectively.

DK Tyagi, Assistant Director, MSME DFO Jammu delivered vote of thanks. Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Director, MSME DFO coordinated the VDP.

J&K Bank ties-up with BAXY Mobility



J&K Bank and BAXY Mobility representatives signing MoU.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: With a view to facilitate customers, J&K Bank on Wednesday entered into an agreement with BAXY Mobility - a three-wheeler manufacturing company - for financing of their commercial vehicles. According to the agreement, BAXY Mobility would offer discounts and labour-free services to the customers availing credit facility from J&K Bank for purchasing their commercial vehicles.

Deputy General Manager (Credit) Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat signed the MoU on behalf of the Bank while General Manager Retail Finance Rajneesh Bankura put in his signatures for BAXY Mobility in presence of General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen.

Speaking on the occasion, Lailit Mahajan, President Bari Brahmana Industrial Association appealed the MSMEs of the area to participate in programmes like VDPs and take maximum benefit of scheme of Ministry of MSME.

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Ashutosh Sareen said, "We have always strived to get into the partnerships with the leading companies across the country to bring ease and convenience into the lives of our customers through tie-ups like this one besides a range of our tailor-made credit schemes."

"BAXY Mobility is a known name in three wheeler industry manufacturing Diesel, CNG and electric vehicles and this partnership will surely be beneficial for our as well as their customers as well," he added.

Expressing his happiness for stitching a tie-up with the Bank, Rajneesh Bankura stated, "Our company is thrilled to get associated with J&K Bank and we are happy to provide special discount and extra labour-free services to our customers availing loan through J&K Bank."

Annual conference on "Institutional Changes for Inclusive, Sustainable Agri Development" begins

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A three day 30th annual conference by Agricultural Economics Research Association (India) on "Institutional Changes for Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural Development" began on Wednesday at SKUAST, Jammu.

The conference is being organized by the Division of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management, SKUAST-Jammu. Dr. Mangala Rai, former Secretary DARE and DG ICAR, New Delhi, was the chief guest during the inaugural function.

Addressing on the occasion, Dr. Mangala Rai said that sustainability and inclusive growth in agriculture is the need of the hour. He pointed out that our country is facing technology and policy fatigue which is the prime reason for deceleration in agricultural growth. He strongly advocated addressing the technology fatigue in order to realize the goals of increase in agricultural production. He stressed upon institutional and technological reforms for improving Indian agriculture.

Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, emphasized that professionals should come together and exchange knowledge of their respective fields. This can help finding answers to the unknown, bridge knowledge gaps thus improving their professional skills, he added.

Earlier, Dr. B.C. Sharma, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, presented welcome address.

Dr. P.K. Joshi, President AERA, elaborated the detailed

programme of three day conference. He informed that around 300 delegates have registered for the conference. He further said that 87 entries have been received for the poster presentation. During the conference, six technical sessions and three special sessions have been scheduled to discuss and dwell deep into the main themes and come out with the suitable and concrete way forward in these broad areas.

During the inaugural session, five publications including souvenirs-cum-abstract book were released by the dignitaries.

Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir; Dr. Arjani Kumar, SRF, IFPRI; Dr. Shahid Rashid, Director, South Asia IFPRI, New Delhi, statutory officers of the University, staff members, students, delegates and media personnel were present on the occasion.

Proceedings of the inaugural programme were conducted by Dr. Anil Bhat and Rekha Nair while vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, organizing secretary, AERA-2022.

Should not there be a provision delegating President to appoint an Advisory Committee on his/her own Role & Responsibility Framers enshrined in President well reflects from Articles 53, 60, 61, 74, 75, 77, 79 Status of President of India was very considerably enshrined as Protector of COI under Art-60 President takes oath to Protect COI but 42nd & 44th amendments of COI are not fair to President

■ DAYA SAGAR

In the original Constitution of India adopted on 26-11-1949 there were two important features which had their shadows in the constitution of UK and US (i) The President was designated as head of State (Union) and supreme commander of the forces. The executive head of the Government of India is designated as Prime Minister who has to be leader of the party / group that enjoyed the confidence of majority in Lok Sabha and is appointed by the President. (ii) The President of India though for general legislative purposes / governance appeared like a nominal head of 'State' but since he/she was given the responsibility to Protect the Constitution of India (Art-60 of COI Oath or affirmation by the President..... "I, A, B., do swear in the name of god / solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the office of President (or discharge the functions of the President) of India and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of India." was not must bound to accept (Art-74) any/all amendment to the constitution or any bill passed by the Parliament / actions of Council of Ministers although/ since it was laid down in the COI that there will be council of ministers headed by Prime Minister to aid and advise the President (Art-74 of the COI laid down that < (1) There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions. (2) The question

whether any, and if so what advice was tendered by Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into in any court> but the advice of the Council of Ministers was not binding on the President so the authority of the President to defend the Constitution even by over ruling the elected government was ultimate to some extent, ofcourse keeping in view principles enshrined in the constitution , and the constituent power enshrined in Art-368 was/ is not / cannot be taken as ultimate by the Parliament constituted under the provisions of Constitution itself).

But the Indian constitution was amended first with 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 to amend Art-74 as < For clause (1), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-"(1) There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice."> which was to in a way make the advice of cabinet almost binding on the President.

To make the council of ministers in a way constitutionally imposing on the wisdom and authority of President once again with 44th amendment Act of 1976 Article-74 was further amended to lay down < In article 74 of the Constitution, in clause (1), the following proviso shall be inserted at the end, namely:-"Provided that the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice, either generally or otherwise, and the President shall act in accordance with the

advice tendered after such reconsideration.">

So after 1976 44th Constitutional amendment President became a nominal head of State only and was snatched the power to veto any amendment of constitution by the majority of members even if that was against the basic structure of the constitution. (See Art-13 which too has been amended under Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1971, s. 2 (w.e.f. 5-11-1971), Art-32).

The intentions of the framers of Constitution of India and what role & responsibility they had conceived to be enshrined in the CHAIR of President of India could be well sensed from the contents of Article- 53. Executive power of the Union, Art-60, Oath or affirmation by the President, Art-61. Procedure for impeachment of the President, Art-74. Council of Ministers to aid and advise President, Art-75. Other provisions as to Ministers.-(1) The Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President, Art-77. Conduct of business of the Government of India.-(1) All executive action of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President and Art-79. Constitution of Parliament.-(1) There shall be a Parliament for the Union which shall consist of the President, and two Houses to be known respectively as the Council of States and the House of the People) of COI that was adopted and enacted by Constituent Assembly of India on 26th November 1949.

So Indian citizen now need to understand how serious and considerate the framers of constitution were who had kept the President at a very high pedestal but the elected governments that followed did not hold the spirit that firmly and surely today there is need to review the constitution as regards the 42nd and 44th Constitution amendments. Not only that going by the experiences over the last seven decades and now in the times when we are celebrating Swatantrata (Azadi) ka Mahotsav there is need for creating a constitutional provision delegating to President also authority like to on his own decide and appoint an advisory committee for assisting him/ her on matters related to atleast constitutional / political/ social / economic affairs during the tenure since he/she has to protect the Constitution..

Since constitutionally the Executive power of the Union rests in President of India (Art-53), President is supreme commander of Armed Forces, in terms of Art-79 (Constitution of Parliament) the Parliament for the Union consists of the President, & two Houses (the Council of States and the House of the People) and , in terms of Art-77 {Conduct of business of the Government of India.-(1) All executive action of the Government of India are to be expressed to be taken in the name of the President so will it not be worth considering to name all the welfare programmes of Government of India as President's programme ?

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72 in-charge lecturers over 'invalid PG degrees" reverted Masters Status

■ SHAKEELA ANDRAI

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department (SED) has ordered to withdraw placement of around 72 school teachers and masters as in-lecturers over 'invalid' post-graduate degrees.

The order to this effect has been issued by the Principal Secretary SED, Alok Kumar noting that the incumbents have been reverted to their substantive posts and will continue to be posted at the same place of posting against the available substantive post of Teacher and Master. The placement of these masters and teachers has been withdrawn in the discipline of Environmental Science in respect of those who have obtained Post Graduate Degrees through Distance Mode.

Notably, the department had earlier placed teachers and masters including these 72 candidates as in-charge lecturers in the Environmental Sciences with purported PG Degree in Environmental Sciences or Ecology and Environment through Distance Mode from Institutions and Universities outside.

"The placement orders were subject to the conditions that the Director School Education Jammu and Kashmir will verify the Post Graduate Degrees obtained during service through Distance Mode in light of Government Order No. 940-Edu 2017 dated 17.11.2017 and shall allow such Masters and Teachers to join only if the PG Degrees are found genuine," the order reads.

The order reads that the Director School Education Jammu and Kashmir were directed to allow these candidates to join only after verifying the following the mode of acquiring degree (i.e. 10+2+2 with bridge course or 10+2+3) as well as genuineness of PG Certificates and the institutions from which the candidate acquired such degrees are valid.

"It was ordered that if any of the above mentioned conditions is not fulfilled by the official, he or she will not be allowed to join and the Directorate shall refer the case to the Administrative Department for further course of action within 30 days, from issuance of order," the SED order reads.

The order reads that besides satisfying the conditions laid down in the said Government order, concerned Directors were asked to furnish clear cut recommendations, whether the candidates are eligible for inclusion in seniority and promotion."The recommendations furnished by the Director School Education