GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING)

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1800 (TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2019)

EMPOWERING INFORMATION COMMISSIONERS

1800. SHRIMATI VASANTHI M.:

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to seek powers to fix salaries, allowances and tenure of Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners of the Centre and States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been any protests against such move saying that this will fundamentally weaken the institution of the commission as it will adversely impact their ability to function in an independent manner and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the status conferred on commissioners under the RTI Act is to empower them to carry out their functions autonomously and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) to (c): A notice of intention was given to introduce "The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2018" in the Parliament to consider enabling provisions under the RTI Act to frame Rules regarding salaries, allowances and conditions of service for the functionaries as there are no such provisions available under the RTI Act presently.
- (d): Section 12(4) of the RTI Act 2005, vests the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the Central Information Commission in the Chief Information Commissioner who shall be assisted by the Information Commissioners and may inter-alia exercise all such powers autonomously.
