

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3385**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023)

**OPPORTUNITY TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT ASPIRANTS**

**3385. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to give one more opportunity to the Central Government employment aspirants due to the Covid restrictions during 2020-21 pandemic and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government considers the fact that a lot of employment aspirants failed to attend their examination due to Covid positive and quarantine and if so, the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government considers the difficulties of aspirants who faced trauma due to the loss of their family members due to Covid-19 and if so, the details of the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to relax the criteria for giving opportunity to those aspirants who served as Covid warriors and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to give relaxation to those who were removed from the examination halls due to high fever during Covid restrictions 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 (e): During COVID-19, period the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Staff Selection Commission (SSC) made all necessary arrangements for smooth conduct of examinations by adopting all COVID- 19 safety protocols.

As regards requests received from candidates on the issue of granting age relaxation and extra attempt to candidates for Civil Services Examination (CSE) due to COVID-19 pandemic, the issue was brought before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide Writ Petitions filed by a few Civil Service Examination (CSE) aspirants. Based on the judgments passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the matter was considered, and it was not found feasible to change the existing provisions regarding number of attempts and age-limit in respect of the Civil Services Examination.

However, since the recruitment cycle of the Staff Selection Commission was delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic, for the examinations advertised in the year 2022, SSC decided to fix crucial date for determining age limit as 01.01.2022 which, in the normal course, would have been 01.08.2022 or 01.01.2023, depending on the schedule of conduct of Tier-II Examinations.

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