

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1703
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2015)

EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL SERVICES

1703. SHRIMATI KAVITHAKALVAKUNTLA:
SHRI SISIR KUMARADHIKARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up an expert committee to review the scheme, syllabus and pattern of UPSC's Civil Services Examination;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the terms of reference of the expert panel and the time by which they are likely to submit their report; and
- (d) the reasons and the purpose for revamping the current pattern of UPSC Civil Services Examination?

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 (d): The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has constituted an Expert Committee under chairmanship of Shri B S Baswan to comprehensively examine the various issues raised from time to time regarding Civil Services Examination, with respect to the eligibility, syllabus, scheme and pattern of the Examination vide notice dated 12.08.2015. The composition of the Committee, its terms of reference and tenure are at Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-I AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1703 ASKED BY SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA AND SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI REGARDING EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL SERVICES FOR ANSWER ON 09.12.2015.

The Union Public Service Commission have resolved to constitute an Expert Committee which consist of the following members:

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| i) | Shri B.S. Baswan | - | Chairman |
| ii) | Shri B.N. Navalawala | - | Member |
| iii) | Dr. HariPratapGautam | - | Member |
| iv) | Dr. Anil Sahasrabudhe | - | Member |
| v) | Prof. Peter Ronald deSouza | - | Member |
| vi) | Prof. B. Mahadevan | - | Member |
| vii) | Sh. M.P. Tangirala, Additional Secretary (Examination), UPSC | - | Member Secretary |

2. The terms of reference of the Expert Committee are:

- i) To evaluate the effectiveness of the existing scheme of the Civil Services Examination in selecting suitable candidates for the Services participating in the Examination, keeping in view various factors such as the need for inclusiveness in the selection process, fair mix of candidates from different disciplines, the skill-sets required for a modern, effective and efficient civil service and trainability of selected candidates, after reviewing the recommendations of previous expert committees in this regard;
- ii) To examine the Plan of the Examination and suggest suitable changes to both the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination and the Civil Services (Main) Examination (including the interview process), including, inter alia, whether there is a case for prescribing different papers for selection to different participating Services, the number of papers in each stage, mix of compulsory and optional subjects, their structure (whether objective or conventional type), their duration, broad areas to be covered in each paper, medium of examination, the marking scheme, weightage of marks, and system of evaluation, so as to arrive at an Examination pattern that is holistic and does not exhibit any bias for or against candidates from any particular stream, subject area, language, or region;
- iii) To examine the time-frame in which the Examination is conducted and suggest suitable changes to reduce the time taken for selection of candidates by utilizing information and communication technologies, as well as by making changes to the various procedures mandated by the Examination Rules, including the methodology for operating reserve lists / waiting lists (if any);
- iv) To suggest the timeframe for implementation of the revised pattern of Examination;
- v) To suggest suitable eligibility criteria for candidates appearing at the Examination, with particular reference to minimum and maximum age limits and number of attempts; to review the eligibility criteria for candidates, who have already been selected to different services, and who desire to reappear for selection to some other Service;

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- vi) To suggest a mechanism for designing and periodically updating the syllabus for each of the papers in the two stages, including unitization of syllabus, proper coverage of content, and balance across subject papers, such that the syllabi are comprehensive, up-to- date, and suitable for a competitive evaluation of the merit of the candidates appearing at the Examination;
- vii) To review the logistical requirements and constraints of conducting the Examination in view of the increasing number of candidates taking the Preliminary Examination and suggest improvements, given that almost half the number of candidates who apply do not appear at the Preliminary Examination; and
- viii) To examine any other item that the Expert Committee feels is relevant to the process of selection or which may be referred to the Expert Committee by the Commission/ Government.

3. It has been decided that the Expert Committee will submit its report within six months of its constitution.
