No.407/06/2014-AVD-IV-B Government of India Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Department of Personnel & Training

North Block, New Delhi-110001. Dated the 3 0.01.2015.

NOTICE

Subject:- Applications received for the posts of Chairperson and Members, Lokpal – Intimation of status - reg.

This is with regard to applications received for the posts of Chairperson and Members, Lokpal, in response to this Department's advertisement dated 17.01.2014 and Circular letter dated 18.01.2014, for filling up the posts of Chairperson and Members of Lokpal.

2. In this connection, attention of all applicants/nominated candidates is invited to the fact that the aforesaid advertisement and vacancy circular had been issued by the Central Government in pursuance of the Search Committee (Constitution, Terms and Conditions of appointment of members and the manner of selection of Panel of Names for appointment of Chairperson and Members of Lokpal) Rules, 2014, notified in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) dated 17th January, 2014 [vide G.S.R. No.31(E)]. A number of writ petitions were filed in various High Courts and in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, challenging some of the provisions of the said Rules. After re-examining the said rules, the Central Government has, vide Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 620(E) dated 27.08.2014, notified the Search Committee (Constitution, Terms and Conditions of appointment of members and the manner of selection of Panel of Names for appointment of Chairperson and Members of Lokpal) (Amendment) Rules, 2014. Sub-rule (2) of rule 10 of the principal Rules, which provided for an advertisement and inviting of nominations from various authorities by the Central Government (DOPT), has now been substantially modified. Sub-rule (2) now merely provides that the Central Government shall provide such assistance as may be required by the Search Committee in efficient discharge of its functions in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The role of the Central Government, which originally included the circulation of vacancies to the Registrars of Supreme Court/High Courts, etc. and the issuance of an advertisement, has now been modified and is now limited to providing such assistance as may be required by the Search Committee. The amended rules also provide that the Search Committee may adopt such short-listing norms as it may consider appropriate for the purpose of short-listing of persons [as per sub-rules (2) & (3) of rule 10 of the amended Rules].

3. It may also be noted in this context that the quorum of the Selection Committee under section 4 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013Act is at present incomplete. In order to address certain issues which have arisen in relation to the composition of the Selection Committee and the constitution of a Search Committee by the Selection Committee under section 4 of the Act, and some other difficulties in implementing the provisions of the Act, Government has recently introduced the Lokpal and Lokayuktas and other related law (Amendment) Bill, 2014 in Lok Sabha on 18.12.2014. The said Bill stands referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice and is, at present, under consideration of the said Committee. The constitution of the Search Committee by the Selection Committee and other steps towards the selection of Chairperson and Members in Lokpal, as per the amended rules, can be processed only after the said Bill is passed by Parliament.

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