

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(LOK SABHA)



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Date: 19/03/2013

Sh. V. Narayanasamy,  
Hon'ble Minister of State,  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions,  
Government of India,  
New Delhi.

**Subject: Request for fresh attempts or extra attempts to aspirants of Civil services Examination, 2013 in the wake of substantial changes introduced in Mains (written) exam scheme notified on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

Dear Narayanasamyji,

I wish to draw your kind attention on the Civil Services Notice no. (No. 04/2013-CSP) issued by Union Public Service Commission making drastic changes in the pattern of Civil Services Mains (written) examination. Along with the changes relating to the English language paper and the regional language medium, the number of optional subjects to be opted by candidates has been reduced to one, and instead of two, now there will be four general studies papers. Among the four General Studies papers an entirely new General Studies paper of ethics, integrity and aptitude has been introduced. Also, the weightage of General Studies vis-à-vis the optional subject has been substantially increased. These changes will make the mains (written) exam a completely different ball game from now. A large number of aspirants, especially, from rural backgrounds and weaker sections, have approached me and have expressed their anxiousness and are fearing the possible adverse fallout from these changes.

These changes are drastic and substantial, and the candidates who only have one or two attempts left need time to adapt to these changes and might exhaust those in the process. There are many others who have recently exhausted their attempts in the old pattern. They need to be given extra number of attempts to compete equally after already having exhausted some or all of their attempts in the old pattern. In such circumstances, all aspirants, who are over with some or all of their attempts in the old pattern and who are otherwise eligible, must be given equitable opportunity to compete in the new reformed pattern thereby realizing the right to equality enshrined in **Article 14** and equality enshrined in the matters of public employment under **Article 16** of the **Constitution of India**.

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I wish to bring to light the fact that it is a well established practice adopted in examinations conducted with limited number of attempts to give fresh attempts whenever the pattern undergoes major change.

- a) The **UPSC** itself in **1979** allowed 3 fresh attempts to all candidates appearing in the Civil Service Examination, who were otherwise eligible, irrespective of the number of attempts availed prior to 1979, when it brought about substantial changes in the Mains examination pattern.
- b) The **Rajasthan Public Service Commission** in **1993** allowed one extra attempt when it changed its syllabus for Mains (written) exam syllabus of State Civil and Subordinate Examination.
- c) All **Central Government** bodies conducting Departmental Examinations have, invariably, followed this convention. The **Ministry of Finance** for the post of Income Tax Officers in **2010** and the **Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India** for the Subordinate Accounts Services in **2010** revamped the patterns of examination so, gave fresh attempts to all candidates.

I would therefore, request you to kindly look into the matter urgently so that all the aspirants are given fresh or extra attempts upto the prescribed age limit. I am optimistic that you would take appropriate but urgent measures to ensure a fair chance for all candidates to compete in this reformed pattern of Civil Services Examination.

With Regards,

Tathagata Satpathy  
MP, Lok Sabha  
(Dhenkanal, Orissa)

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