

F.No.35034/7/97-Estt(D)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel and Training

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New Delhi – 110001
February 8, 2002

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:-Procedure to be observed by Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs)
- No supersession in 'selection' promotion- Revised Guidelines regarding

The undersigned is directed to invite reference to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoP&T) Office Memorandum (O.M.) No.22011/5/86-Estt(D) dated March 10,1989 and O.M. of even number dated April 10, 1989[as amended by O.M.No.22011/5/91-Estt(D) dated March 27, 1997] which contain the instructions on the Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs)and related matters. In regard to the 'selection' mode of promotion('selection-cum-seniority' and 'selection by merit'), the aforesaid instructions prescribe the guidelines (as briefly discussed in paragraph 2 below) for overall 'grading' to be given by the DPC, 'bench-mark' for assessment of performance and the manner in which the 'select panel' has to be arranged for promotions to various levels of post/grade.

2. **Existing Guidelines**

2.1 As per the existing (aforementioned) instructions, in promotions *up to and excluding* the level in the pay-scale of Rs.12,000-16,500 (excepting promotions to Group 'A' posts/services from the lower group), if the mode happens to be 'selection-cum-seniority', then the bench-mark prescribed is 'good' and officers obtaining the said bench-mark are arranged in the select panel in the order of their seniority in the lower (feeder) grade. Thus, there is no supersession among those who meet the said bench-mark. Officers getting a grading lower than the prescribed bench-mark ('good') are not empanelled for promotion.

2.2 In the case of promotions from lower Groups to Group 'A', while the mode of promotion happens to be 'selection by merit', the bench-mark prescribed is 'good' and only those officers who obtain the said bench-mark are promoted in the order of merit as per grading obtained. Thus, officers getting a superior grading supersede those getting lower grading. In other words, an officer graded as 'outstanding' supersedes those graded as 'very good' and an officer graded as 'very good' supersedes officers graded as 'good'. Officers obtaining the same grading are arranged in the select panel in the order of their seniority in the lower grade. Those who get a grading lower than the prescribed bench-mark ('good') are not empanelled for promotion.

2.3 In promotions to the level in the pay-scale of Rs.12,000-16,500/- and above, while the mode of promotion is 'selection by merit', the bench-mark prescribed is 'very good' and only those officers who obtain the said benchmark are promoted in the order of merit as per the grading obtained, officers getting superior grading supersede those getting lower grading as explained in paragraph 2.2 above. Officers obtaining the same grading are arranged in the select panel in the order of their seniority in the lower grade. Those who get a grading lower than the prescribed bench-mark ('very good') are not empanelled for promotion.

3.1 **Revised Guidelines**

The aforementioned guidelines which permit supersession in 'selection promotion ('selection by merit') have been reviewed by the Government and after comprehensive/extensive examination of relevant issues it has been decided that there should be no supersession in matter of 'selection' (merit) promotion at any level. In keeping with the said decision, the following revised promotion norms/guidelines, in partial modification (to the extent relevant for the purpose of these instructions) of all existing instructions on the subject (as referred to in paragraph 1 above) are prescribed in the succeeding paragraphs for providing guidance to the Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs).

Mode of Promotion

In the case of 'selection' (merit) promotion, the hitherto existing distinction in the nomenclature ('selection by merit' and 'selection-cum-seniority') is dispensed with and the mode of promotion in all such cases is rechristened as 'selection' only. The element of selectivity (higher or lower) shall be determined with reference to the relevant bench-mark ("Very Good" or "Good") prescribed for promotion.

3.2 **'Bench-mark' for promotion**

The DPC shall determine the merit of those being assessed for promotion with reference to the prescribed bench-mark and accordingly grade the officers as 'fit' or 'unfit' only. Only those who are graded 'fit' (i.e. who meet the prescribed bench-mark) by the DPC shall be included and arranged in the select panel in order to their inter-se seniority in the feeder grade. Those officers who are graded 'unfit' (in terms of the prescribed bench-mark) by the DPC shall not be included in the select panel. Thus, there shall be no supersession in promotion among those who are graded 'fit' (in terms of the prescribed bench-mark) by the DPC.

3.2.1 Although among those who meet the prescribed bench-mark, inter-se seniority of the feeder grade shall remain intact, eligibility for promotion will no doubt be subject to fulfilment of all the conditions laid down in the relevant Recruitment/Service Rules, including the conditions that one should be the holder of the relevant feeder post on regular basis and that he should have rendered the prescribed eligibility service in the feeder post.

3.3 Promotion to the revised pay-scale (grade) of Rs.12,000-16,500 and above

- (i) The mode of promotion, as indicated in paragraph 3.1 above, shall be 'selection'.
- (ii) The bench-mark for promotion, as it is now, shall continue to be 'very good'. This will ensure element of higher selectivity in comparison to selection promotions to the grades lower than the aforesaid level were the bench-mark, as indicated in the following paragraphs, shall be 'good' only.
- (iii) The DPC shall for promotions to said pay-scale (grade) and above, grade officers as 'fit' or 'unfit' only with reference to the bench-mark of 'very good'. Only those who are graded as 'fit' shall be included in the select panel prepared by the DPC in order of their inter-se seniority in the feeder grade. Thus, as already explained in paragraph 3.2 above, there shall be no supersession in promotion among those who are found 'fit' by the DPC in terms of the aforesaid prescribed bench-mark of 'very good'.

3.4 Promotion to grades below the revised pay-scale (grade) of Rs.12,000-16,500 (including promotions from lower Groups to Group 'A' posts/grades/services)

- (i) The mode of promotion, as indicated in paragraph 3.1 above, shall be 'selection'.
- (ii) The bench-mark for promotion, as it is now, shall continue to be 'good'.
- (ii) The DPC shall for promotion to posts/grades/services in the aforesaid categories, grade officers as 'fit' or 'unfit' only with reference to the bench-mark of 'good'. Only those who are graded as 'fit' shall be included in the select panel prepared by the DPC in order of their inter-se seniority in the feeder grade. Thus, as already explained in paragraph 3.2 above, there shall be no supersession in promotion among those who are found 'fit' by the DPC in terms of the aforesaid prescribed benchmark of 'good'.

3.5 Zone of consideration

The guidelines relating to the 'zone of consideration' in its existing form (twice the number of vacancies plus four) shall continue to have general application. However, in view of the modifications in promotion norms indicated in paragraph 3.3 above, the following stipulation [as is already applicable in the case of promotions below the revised pay-scale (grade) of Rs.12,000-16,500/- vide DoP&T O.M.No.22011/8/ 98-Estt(D) dated November 6, 1998] is also made in the regard to the zone of consideration for promotion to the revised pay-scale (grade) of Rs.12,000-16,500/- and above

"While the zone of consideration would remain as already prescribed. the DPC, in the aforesaid category of cases, may assess the suitability of eligible employees in the zone of consideration (in the descending order) for inclusion in the panel for promotion up to a number which is considered sufficient against the number of vacancies. With regard to the number of employees to be included in the panel, the DPC may also be required to keep in view the instructions issued vide Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum No.22011/18/87-Estt(D) dated April 9, 1996 relating to norms for preparing extended panel for promotion. In respect of the remaining employees, the DPC may put a note in the minutes that "the assessment of the remaining employees in the zone of consideration is considered not necessary as sufficient number of employees with prescribed bench-mark have become available."

4. Provisions of the paragraph 1 (vii) of the DoP&T O.M.No.AB-14017/2/97-Estt(RR) dated May 25, 1998 stand modified in accordance with these revised instructions. In addition to this, if the guidelines contained 'in this Office Memorandum come in conflict with the provisions of any other executive instructions (O.M.) issued by DoP&T on this subject, the same shall be taken to be modified to the extent provided herein.

5. The instructions contained in this Office Memorandum shall come into force from the date of its issue.

6. Ministries/Departments are requested to give wide circulation to these revised instructions for general guidance in the matter so that immediate steps are taken to amend the Service Rules/Recruitment Rules of various services/posts/grades so as to appropriately incorporate the mode of promotion as 'selection' (in accordance with these instructions) in place of 'selection by merit' and 'selection-cum-seniority' (as was hitherto prescribed by the aforementioned O.M. dated March 27, 1997) as the case may be. The powers to amend Service Rules / Recruitment Rules in this regard are delegated to the Ministries /Departments. DoP&T need not be consulted to carry out the required amendments.

Sd/-

(ALOK SAXENA)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

To

All Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

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1. The President's Secretariat, NewDelhi.
2. The Prime Minister's Office, NewDelhi.

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4. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi.
5. The Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi.
6. The Comptroller and Audit General of India, New Delhi.
7. The Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi with reference to their letter No.1017/2001-AU(C) dated 30.10.2001 (20 copies).
8. The Staff Selection Commission, New Delhi.
9. All attached offices under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
10. Establishment Officer & Secretary, ACe (10 copies) (Smt Chitra Chopra)
11. All Officers and Sections in the Department of Personnel and Training.
12. Establishment (RR) Section, DoP&T (10 copies). They may also issue separate instructions in terms of the position indicated in paragraph 4 above.
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