

Invitation of applications of serving officers for consideration for appointment in the Lokpal on Deputation

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Lokpal of India is a *sui generis* autonomous and independent body, established in terms of Section 3 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 on 16.01.2014. Soon thereafter, as a transient measure, the Department of Expenditure and Department of Personnel & Training specified certain posts for Lokpal. The appointments made against such specified posts so far, have mostly been encadred staff/officer from Central Secretariat Service (CSS) and Central Secretariat Stenographer Service (CSSS) cadre.

Since its inception, Lokpal has operated with skeletal staff even after becoming functional in 2019. Keeping in mind the steady increase in the flow of complaints, coupled with the felt necessity to adopt a structured and permanent staffing pattern of its own, an organogram has been approved on 06.08.2024 and revised on 13.09.2024 by the Full Bench of Lokpal of India, in exercise of administrative and financial powers under Section 34 of the Act.

The Full Bench of the Lokpal has also finalized the Service Regulations titled "The Lokpal Officers and Staff (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 2024", which are pending approval of the Competent Authority related only to provisions regarding salaries, allowances, leave and pensions, in terms of section 10 of the Act of 2013.

Lokpal being mandated by the Act to maintain confidentiality and adhere to timelines, it is not only desirable but imperative to appoint its own permanent staff and build up institutional memory. Needless to underscore that functioning and efficiency of the Lokpal cannot be compromised due to non-availability of adequate staff.

Taking holistic view, it has been decided by the Lokpal to explore the possibility of appointing its own staff on deputation basis as an interim solution until permanent staffing/direct recruitment is possible post approval of the Service Regulations. It has been now decided that the bare minimum required posts as per the approved Organogram be filled on deputation basis and in lieu of encadred staff provided to it.

The Full Bench of Lokpal of India, in exercise of powers vested in Section 34 and other enabling provisions of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013 has concurred and approved to fill up 81 posts in various grades in Lokpal of India on deputation basis. The detailed advertisement for filling up of these posts has been published and uploaded on the official website of Lokpal of India (https://lokpal.gov.in/pdfs/Vacancy_Circular_81_Posts_on_deputation.pdf).

NKR/PSM/AV

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