



Legal Status for SSC

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A **Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC)** has recommended **statutory status** to the **Staff Selection Commission (SSC)**, one of the largest recruitment agencies in the country.

- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and all State Public Service Commissions either have constitutional or legal status. The SSC is the only such organisation that performs similar functions on a much larger scale, but does not enjoy statutory status.
- Earlier, an expert group constituted by the government in 2014, for reviewing the examination system in the SSC, had also recommended according statutory status to the Commission.

Staff Selection Commission

- The Government of India constituted the **Subordinate Services Commission in 1975** which was subsequently **re-designated as Staff Selection Commission in 1977**.
- The Staff Selection Commission is **an attached office** of the **Department of Personnel and Training** and comprises of Chairman, two Members and a Secretary-cum-Controller of Examinations who are appointed on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Central Government.
- **Estimates Committee of the Parliament in its 47th Report (1967-68)** and the **First Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in 1968** recommended the setting up of a Service Selection Commission for conducting examinations for recruitment to lower categories of posts.
- The SSC was created to ease the burden of the UPSC by taking over the recruitment for posts below the Group 'A' level.
- The workload and responsibilities of the SSC have increased exponentially over the years, from 9.94 lakh candidates in 2008-09 to over 2 crore in 2016-17.

- Moreover, the SSC has a sanctioned staff strength of 481 officers but is functioning with 75% of its sanctioned strength.
- Statutory status to the SSC would contribute to **greater functional autonomy, faster decision-making and efficiency** in the overall performance and delivery of results by the SSC in the recruitment process.