

Faculty positions in scientific/academic institutions and citizenship issues

As is the case for all other jobs in the Government sector, scientific and academic positions in public-funded institutes and universities are by law open only to citizens of India. At the same time, a combination of circumstances and developments in recent years has led to the possibility (at least theoretical) of faculty-level appointments being made without clear verification of Indian nationality of the appointee.

First, a very large number of applicants for faculty positions are persons who intend to return after spending some years abroad, and a few of them may have become naturalized citizens of a second country.

Second, scientific institutions in India are permitted to recruit employees on their own (instead of doing so through the Union Public Service Commission)

and, in order to simplify the procedure for people applying from abroad, the institutions often use the biodata and cover letter from the applicant as a substitute for information to be submitted in a proforma application.

Third, information sought on citizenship in the application is itself often ambiguous; for example, that for laboratories of the CSIR asks, 'Are you an Indian national by birth and/or by domicile?', to which an applicant who was born in India as an Indian citizen but who had subsequently acquired the citizenship of a second country may in all sincerity (but erroneously) answer in the affirmative.

Finally, there is considerable confusion in the community concerning the issue of 'dual citizenship' or 'dual nationality', especially after introduction by the Gov-

ernment first of the PIO card and then of the OCI card for foreign nationals of Indian origin. Simply put, the Government does *not* recognize the concept of dual nationality, and no individual can be an Indian national if (s)he holds a valid passport of a second country.

Given the circumstances, it may be important for all publicly funded institutions to take precautionary steps to ensure that, in the matter of the nationality of any of their faculty members, they are not inadvertently transgressing the law (and that they have not done so in the past).

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Need to adopt traditional fishing gears in Senkhi

Senkhi is one of the important streams of the capital town, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, which caters to 70% of the water needs of the urban population. It also contributes 38% of the Ichthyofauna of the state and also reported an addition of eight new species for the district, four for the state and one possible new species to science. The stream passes from Senkhi valley down to the semi-urban area and meets with the Chimpu stream at Chimpu. The stream forms a contiguous water body with Pachin and Dikrong, and finally merges with the mighty Brahmaputra at Bedeti (Assam). Senkhi consists of varied microhabitats ranging from deep waters to fast-flowing riffles. It is a perennial stream and hence is important to cater to the day-to-day needs of the urban populace (Figure 1). There has been noticeable reduction of vegetation cover in the catchments areas, which has resulted in low discharge of the once fast stream.

For the last five years we have been observing the Senkhi stream for its native fauna. During the course of our observations it was noticed that people adopted destructive methods instead of

using traditional fishing gears. The commonly employed methods for indiscriminate collection of fish were electrocution, use of bleaching powder, liming, blasting and throwing of cast net, thus posing a threat to the fish population, which otherwise would have been sustainable, had they used traditional gears.

Electrocution is done during winter season (October–February) when the water volume decreases. In such an environment most of the bottom feeders are found dwelling under the gaps of stones and boulders. A 3–4 m long, dry bamboo

pole was fitted with an with electric wire and a metallic rod was fitted at the tip. The wire was coiled in the middle of the pole so that extension, could be achieved up to 500 m. Single phase of electric current was hooked with wire and electrocution of fishes was found effective within 1 m of site of operation. The metallic rod is introduced between the boulders and a mosquito net placed just below the site of operation for collection. The shocked fishes are collected in the net. The operation is applicable using low to medium current water. The different species of



Figure 1. Senkhi stream passing through the urban landscape.