

Computerised Evaluation of Answer Sheets

Whenever any Govt. Department conducts a written examination for new openings or vacant posts, the number of candidates who apply sometimes exceeds over 5000 candidates. The candidates are usually required to answer essay type questions during such written examinations. This causes a huge delay in the declaration of the results, sometimes over several months, because the evaluation of essay type answers for over 5000 candidates becomes a very tedious and lengthy process.

To address this problem, The Department of Information Technology mooted a proposal to the North East Council (NEC) 3 years ago on adopting Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Technology for any examination conducted by the State Public Service Commission (SPSC) in the future. This proposal has been approved.

OMR technology uses a scanning device that shines a beam of light upon an OMR form which is nothing but a blank form and a definition of entry zones. The OMR detects marks on the OMR form and evaluates them accordingly. OMR thus automates evaluation of answer sheets and ensures quick declaration of results for any type of Examination. However, to work correctly during evaluation of answer sheets, OMR requires that the question paper must contain only **Objective type** Questions. This technology is being used extensively in UPSC examinations.

It was proposed to make the SPSC the custodian of the equipment. The various Govt. Departments could use these equipments for evaluating answer sheets for examinations being conducted by them. We expect to have the systems in place by October 2011.