

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2087

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

AMENDMENT IN RTI ACT

Basavaraj Shri Gangasandra Siddappa;Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Right to Information Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the details of proposed amendments likely to be incorporated in the Act alongwith the reasons for these amendments;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to incorporate a clause to weed out frivolous applications received under the Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has received any representation from State Governments/NGOs expressing concern about the proposed amendments in RTI Act;
- (f) if so, the details thereof indicating the major concerns/objections expressed in representations by the State Governments/NGOs; and
- (g) the reaction of the Government on the objections raised in the representations?

Answer

Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended some amendments to the Right to Information Act, 2005. The Hon'ble President in her address to the Joint Session of Parliament in 2009 had also emphasized the need for strengthening the right to information by suitably amending the law.

(b)to (d): While no indication can be given at this stage regarding the amendments which will be incorporated in the Act as discussions with the various stakeholders are yet to be held, the proposal under consideration covers, inter-alia, amendment to enlarge the scope of suo-motu disclosure, to avoid frivolous or vexatious representations, to modify the provision about disclosure of cabinet papers, to make a provision for giving current charge of Chief Information Commissioner to any Commissioner, to provide for constitution of Benches of the Commission and to incorporate a new section empowering the commission to make regulations.

(e)& (f): Some NGOs have represented that amendments to the Act may dilute the provisions of the Act.

(g): Various stakeholders including the NGOs will be consulted before a final decision is taken to amend the RTI Act, 2005.