

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5455
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
ASSESSMENT OF RTI ACT, 2005
Alagiri Shri S. ;Sinh Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof and the measures recommended in the study; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government on the basis of the said study?

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) & (b): A study has been conducted through an independent organization to assess the key issues and constraints in implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The study points out that there is inadequate planning by the public authorities in regard to supply of information; awareness about the Act in rural areas is much less than in urban areas; awareness amongst women is much less than men; the gap in implementation of the Act is because of lack of clear accountability in respect of various functions, etc. In this regard, the study recommended measures for improving awareness on right to information; improving convenience in filing information requests; improving efficiency of the Information Commissions, enhancing accountability and clarity of various stakeholders, etc.

(c): The Government, in order to create awareness, has launched awareness generation drives through television and radio. Rural areas have been reached by display of RTI posters in post offices located in rural areas. Assistance for capacity building has been provided to the Information Commissions under a centrally sponsored scheme. The Government is imparting training to public information officers, first appellate authorities and other stakeholders. It has issued several memoranda clarifying various provisions of the Act and has also published five guides on the Right to Information Act.