

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:403  
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010  
IMPACT OF RTI ACT  
Anuragi Shri Ghansyam

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed and reviewed the accessibility and securing of information by the citizens under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the transparency in obtaining information has helped curbing corruption;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the number of complaints received by the Central Information Commission against various Government Departments for failure to provide information and presenting the facts in a twisted manner and the action taken thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (Independent Charge) IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF THE STATE (Independent Charge) IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCE; MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE PRIME'S MINISTER OFFICE; MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 403 BY SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI FOR 25.08.2010 REGARDING 'IMPACT OF RTI ACT'

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government has got an independent assessment and evaluation made of the working of the Right to Information Act with specific reference to the key issues and constraints faced by the information providers and information seekers including issues relating to accessibility of information by the citizens. This study was completed in 2009. The main findings of the study are that although basic tenets of the Act have been implemented, Government employees are aware of the basic elements of the Act, and institutional mechanism including Information Commissions are in place and have assumed pivotal role in implementation of the Act, there are several areas where working of the Act needs to be strengthened. These include awareness generation, detailing of the roles and responsibilities for improving accountability for implementation of the Act, improving convenience in filing of the RTI requests, reorganization of record management system, training of public officials and improving efficiency of Information Commissions.

(c) & (d): While no specific study has been undertaken to study this relationship, Government is of the considered opinion that transparency in obtaining information has and will help in curbing corruption.

(e): The Central Information Commission received a total of 34228 appeals/complaints from 2005-2006 to 2008-2009. The Commission, however, does not maintain subject-wise break-up of appeals/complaints.