

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2790

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010

SAFEGUARD FOR RTI ACTIVISTS

Bhagora Shri Tarachand; Das Gupta Shri Gurudas; Jagannath Dr. M.; Jindal Shri Naveen; Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati; Tarai Shri Bibhu Prasad

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

- (a) whether despite an increase in threats to people using the Right to Information Act for exposing corruption, Central Information Commission (CIC) has admitted that it neither has any mechanism in place nor any guideline to safeguard the interests of such activists;
- (b) if so, whether in the absence of guidelines or a clear law, it has left for the Information Commissioner to take up the matter with local police on condition of anonymity;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which law would be considered to protect RTI Activists; and
- (d) the number of complaints received by the CIC from RTI activists in this regard and the action taken/being taken in the matter?

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 (c): The Chief Information Commissioner has denied making such admission as referred to in part (a) of the Question. However, laws like the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure are in place to deal with the cases of threat including threat to the RTI users/activists.

(d): The Central Information Commission has received at least seven complaints of harassment/threat from RTI Users. The CIC has enquired into these complaints and passed appropriate orders.