

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:549  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011  
REVIEW OF WORKING OF RTI ACT  
Chanabasappa Shri Udasi Shivkumar

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

- (a) whether any review has been made to assess the working of the Right to Information (RTI) Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereto;
- (c) whether the general public is facing undue hardships in getting the information within the stipulated time frame; and
- (d) if so, the mechanism proposed to be developed by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (SHRIV. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b): A study was conducted through an independent organization to assess the key issues and constraints in implementation of the provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005. The study, inter-alia, points out that awareness about the RTI Act in rural areas is less than in urban areas; awareness amongst women is much less than men; the gap in implementation of the RTI Act is because of lack of clear accountability in respect of various functionaries etc. 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) & (d): The RTI Act provides for imposition of penalty on the public information officer in case the information is not supplied within the stipulated time frame. It ensures timely supply of information. The Central Government has issued various guidelines for different stakeholders which have enabled the information seekers to get information as per provisions of the RTI Act.