

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2213
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011
EFFECTIVENESS OF RTI
Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any studies on the efficacy and effectiveness of the Right to Information Act, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action has been taken by the Government to reduce the percentage of rejected requests for information; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a)&(b): A study was conducted in 2008-09 through an independent organization to assess the key issues and constraints in implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The study pointed 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 functionaries 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)&(d): Sections 18, 19 and 20 of the Right to Information Act lays down detailed procedure for dealing with cases where information is not provided by Public Information Officer. The Information Commissions are authorized to impose penalty and/or recommend disciplinary actions in case they come to a conclusion that the request for information has been mala fide denied.