

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:127

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011

RTI ACT

Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ; Rama Devi Smt.

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

- (a) whether instances of non-supply of information to the Right to Information (RTI) applicants have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the current year alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether any person(s) has/have been found guilty of not providing the information in time during the above period and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to review the RTI Act, 2005; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 127 BY SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI AND SHRI ARJUN MEGHWAL FOR 30.11.2011 REGARDING THE 'RTI ACT 2005'

As per details provided by public authorities to the Central Information Commission (CIC), details regarding requests for information which were received under the RTI Act and requests rejected during last three years are given below:

Aspects	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
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Opening balance of RTI requests (as on 1st April of the reporting year)	32,792	97,474	1,37,771@
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Number of requests received during the year	329,728	5,29,274	4,17,955@
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Total number of requests at the end of the reporting year	362,520	6,26,748	5,55,726@
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Number of Requests rejected	23,954	34,057	21,621@
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Requests rejected as a percentage of requests received during the year	7.26%	6.43%	5.20%
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Requests rejected as percentage of total number of requests at the end of reporting year	6.60%	5.43%	3.89%
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@ Figures include public authorities which did not report for some quarters.

The RTI Act provides that a request for information may be rejected if it is covered under exemption clauses of Section 8 or Section 9. Also, information pertaining to a third party is to be provided only after giving third party a notice, who may, in turn, object to providing such information.

The Act has detailed provisions for dealing with cases where the desired information is not provided or cases where information is not supplied within the specified time period. As per section 20 of the Act, Information commissions have been authorized to impose penalty on defaulting public information officers and they may also direct initiation of disciplinary proceedings against such officers. The Central Information Commission imposed penalty on 48 officials in 2008-09; 154 officials in 2009-10; 273 officials in 2010-2011 and 148 officials as of 26.11.2011. Disciplinary action was taken by public authorities against 9 officials in 2008-09, 33 in 2009-10 and 432 in 2010-11. These include the cases where either the information was not supplied or was supplied with delay.

No proposal to amend the RTI Act, 2005 is under the consideration of the Government.