

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2415
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012
VICTIMIZING RTI ACTIVIST
Ram Shri Purnmasi

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that RTI activists and whistle blowers who are exposing corruption in the Government are being killed, victimized and harassed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the representations/ letters received by the Government in this regard and the nature of such complaints; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken 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): There have been reports in the media that some persons have been killed allegedly due to their role as RTI activists and whistle blowers.
- (b): Data is not centrally maintained.
- (c): Representations/letters have been received from different quarters raising the issue of providing safety and security of RTI activists.
- (d): There is no need for a separate policy to deal with such cases as the framework of existing laws such as Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code etc. is considered adequate to provide for safety and security to all citizens, including RTI activists. Further, RTI Activists and whistleblowers will also get protection under the "Whistle Blowers Protection Bill, 2011" passed by the Lok Sabha on 27.12.2011 and is presently in the Rajya Sabha, for consideration.

Maintenance of law and order and providing safety and security for all citizens is primarily the subject matter of the State Government concerned. Government of India has drawn the attention of State Governments to the reports appearing in the media about the victimization of people, who use RTI to expose corruption and irregularities in administration. The States have been requested that if any such instance comes to their notice, it should be promptly inquired into and action taken against the offenders.