

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7581
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
PUBLIC RECORDS ACT
Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the Public Records Act (PRA), 1993;
- (b) whether only a few Ministries/Departments have transferred public/ official records to the National Archives of India as per the directives in the said PRA;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up a regulatory mechanism for effective monitoring of PRA, 1993; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) Some of the salient features of the Public Records Act are as follows:

Regulation of the management, administration and preservation of Public Records of the Central Government, Union territory Administration, Public Sector Undertakings, statutory bodies and corporations, Commissions and Committees constituted by the Central Government or a Union territory Administration and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Empowerment of the Director General of Archives on behalf of Central Government for archives administration and, management of Public Records in all the Records Creating Agencies.

Nomination of Records Officers and setting up of Records Rooms.

Appraisal of all public records more than 25 years old in consultation with the National Archives of India and the transfer of records of permanent value to National Archives of India.

Accessibility of all unclassified public records more than 30 years old and transferred to the National Archives of India to bona fide research scholars.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d) There is no regulatory mechanism for effective monitoring in the existing Public Records Act (PRA). The Government had set up a Review Panel in 2009 and a Consultative Committee in 2010 to study the working of PRA and Public Record Rules and suggest amendments therein. The Consultative Committee submitted its Report on 30 August, 2011 to the Ministry of Culture which, inter alia, proposes to set up a regulatory mechanism for the effective implementation of the PRA.