

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2709

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013

ATTACKS ON RTI ACTIVISTS

Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Dome Dr. Ram Chandra;Haque Shri Sk. Saidul;Lal Shri Kirodi ;Pradhan Shri Nityananda;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the incidents of attacks, threats and murders of RTI activists have increased recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the State-wise details of such incidents during the last one year;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any scheme for the security of RTI activists and whistle blowers; 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): There are some media reports that some people have been killed allegedly due to their role as RTI activists.
- (b): Data is not centrally maintained.
- (c)&(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 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.