

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1575

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015

Attack on RTI Activists

Chandel Kunwar Pushpendra Singh; Giluwa Shri Laxman; Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao; Verma Shri Rajesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints from RTI activists facing threats due to invoking RTI Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the details of RTI activists/ whistleblowers, killed/attacked during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate security to the information seekers along with the details of provisions made in the Act 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.
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (c): There are some media reports that some people have been killed, attacked and received threats allegedly due to their role as RTI activists/whistleblowers. No such data is, however, centrally maintained.

(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 also get protection under the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011.

Further as 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 had 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 had been requested that if any such instance comes to their notice, it should be promptly inquired into and action taken against the offenders.
