

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3755
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2015
Pending Cases of RTI
Jayadevan Shri C. N.

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

- (a) whether a large number of RTI requests are pending in various Government departments and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the remedial measures being taken to make the functioning of the information commissions effective?

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): As per the Right to Information Act, 2005 it is mandatory on the part of Public Information Officer either to provide the information or reject the request for any of the reasons specified by the RTI Act within 30 days of receipt of the request. Similarly, as per the RTI Act, an appeal shall be disposed of within 30 days on the receipt of the appeal by the First Appellate Authority or within such extended period not exceeding a total of 45 days from the date of filing thereof, as the case may be, for reasons to be recorded in writing.

As on 31.07.2015, 39444 appeals and complaints are pending in the Central Information Commission.

State-wise data on pending RTI appeals/complaints is available in each State Information Commission.

(b): The Government has taken several steps like capacity building through training and issue of guidelines for Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities, so as to enable them to supply information/dispose of first appeal effectively, resulting into less number of appeals to the Information Commission. The Government apart from a number of clarificatory orders has also issued an OM No. 1/18/2007-IR dated 21st September, 2007 and 1/6/2011-IR dated 15th April, 2013 impressing upon the public authorities to disclose maximum information proactively so that citizens need not resort to filing of RTI applications to access information available with the public authorities. The Central Information Commission has been granted autonomy in recruitment of staff. Further, Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner have been appointed in the Central Information Commission in June 2015. There is now a Chief Information Commissioner and seven Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission.
