

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:245

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2015

Protection of Whistleblowers

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Gandhi Dr. Dharam Vira

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

(a) whether there are reports of whistleblowers / RTI activists being attacked/killed and if so, the details of cases reported during the last two years and the current year;

(b) the mechanism put in place by the Government to ensure protection of whistleblowers; and

(c) whether the Government is aware of measures being taken by the State Governments to protect whistleblowers to ensure fair trial in judicial proceedings and 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.  
(DR.JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (c): A Statement has been laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.245 FOR 16.12.2015.

(a): The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has informed that the Commission, as 'Designated Agency' under Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers (PIDPI) Resolution, 2004 has not come across any confirmed incident of victimization or killing of the complainant during the last two years and the current year. However, in two cases, the complainant, who had made complaint to the Commission under PIDPI Resolution, had alleged victimization.

There have been reports in the media that some persons have been assaulted and killed in the last three years allegedly due to their role as RTI activists. However, data regarding attack/ killing of Whistle Blowers/ RTI activists are not maintained centrally.

(b) & (c): The Government of India vide Resolution dated 21.04.2004 on Public Interest Disclosure & Protection of Informers had authorized the Central Vigilance Commission as the 'Designated Agency' to receive written complaints for disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office and recommend appropriate action. The Government has now vide Resolution dated 14.08.2013 also authorized the Chief Vigilance Officers of the Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government as the 'Designated Authority' to receive written complaint or disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office in respect of any employee of that Ministry/ Department or any organization falling under their jurisdiction. If the 'Designated Authority' in the Ministries/ Departments, either on the application of the complainant, or on the basis of the information gathered, is of the opinion that the complainant needs protection, the 'Designated Authority' shall take up the matter with the Central Vigilance Commission, for issuing appropriate directions to the concerned authorities.

The Commission, after receipt of such representation(s) from Whistle Blowers about threats to their life, takes up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Nodal Agency, to undertake the responsibility of providing security cover to genuine Whistle Blowers. The Home Ministry, in turn, asks individual State Governments to examine the threat and provide security cover, if needed. On the advice of Ministry of Home Affairs, State Governments have appointed Nodal officers in respective states and details about Nodal officers nominated by various State Governments has been communicated to the Commission for referring the matter to them.

Government of India had drawn the attention of State Governments to the reports appearing in the media about the victimizations of people, who use RTI to expose corruption and irregularities in administration, though maintenance of law and order and providing safety and security for all citizens is primarily the subject matter of State Government concerned.

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